

COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

#1352

October 15, 1999

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Stuff
Kurt Busiek

On Delays,
Planning,
and
Owning
What He
Writes



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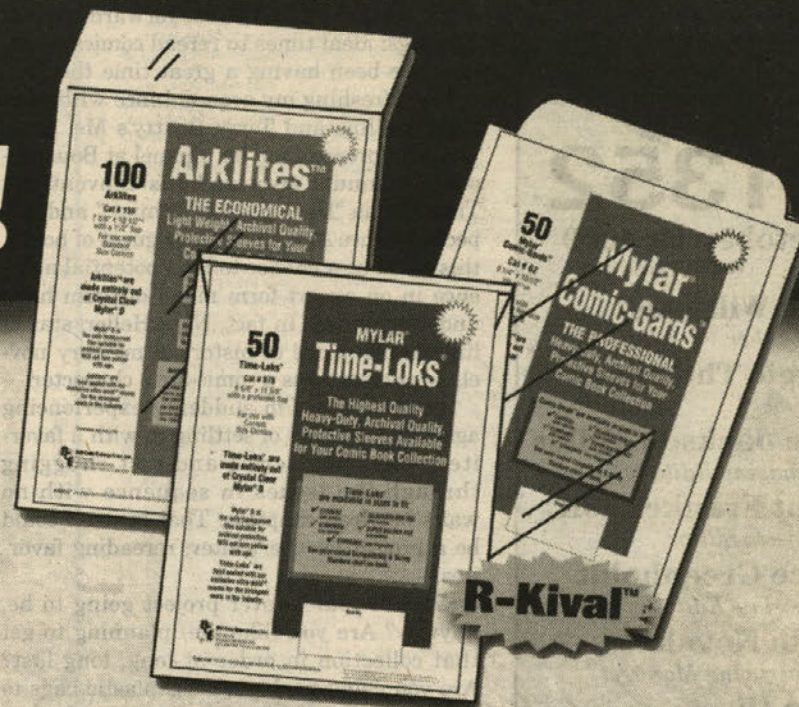
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COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

#1352

October 15, 1999

(Vol. 29, #42)

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Have you dug out from the summer before digging in for the winter?

• OK, folks. Autumn is here. There are fewer than three months left before we enter the "bucks" decade (see the Kurt Busiek article), and it's time to look forward to long evenings: ideal times to reread comics favorites. I've been having a great time the past week, refreshing my acquaintance with Max Allan Collins and Terry Beatty's Ms. Tree. That's in preparation for a panel at Bouchercon (an annual mystery buffs' convention). The topic is "Dark Side of Comics," and, especially since Al is the event's guest of honor, this could be a chance to let a potential audience in on an art form many of them have underestimated. In fact, Nate Heller, star of his terrific series of historical mystery novels, was created as a comic-strip character.

In any case, I'm suddenly experiencing again the delights of settling in with a favorite comic-book series and just chugging through the issues in sequence with no waits between chapters. That in itself could be a project for the winter: rereading favorites.

What's your winter project going to be, anyway? Are you (like me) planning to get that collection in order at long, long last? Are you going to check those plastic bags to see which should be replaced? Are you going to use the ComicBase software to, say, decide which issues in your collection should be moved to Mylar? Or even determine which key but reprinted issues you own should be evaluated by Comics Guaranty Corporation and encased forever in plastic suits of armor?



Editorial
by
**Maggie
Thompson**

mor?

Are you going to reevaluate your comics budget for the year 2000? Is this a good time to decide on your favorites and dispose of duplicates and other unwanted to feed the rest of your collection? What are your plans?

• Oh, before we wrap up this issue and go to the next (celebrating Marvel's 60th anniversary), I'd like to note regarding this issue that I first got to know Kurt Busiek in 1989, when he was editing Marvel's *Open Space* project and I was writing a story which turned into the cover story for #5.

If you don't remember reading it, it's not because your memories of those days are fuzzy; it's because *Open Space* #5 never appeared — and, indeed, even the completed cover painting (which was to be a gift to me from the painter) disappeared in the Marvel whirlpool. I have photocopies of the completed story (inked by Marie Severin, no less) — and a black-and-white photocopy of the painting. I was paid for the script, and that was that.

Except that I *did* get the fun of working with Kurt, who clearly knew his stuff (though most of the comics world had yet to discover it).

Claypool's Richard Howell (for whom Kurt did stories for *Elvira* and *Phantom of Fear City*) wrote me recently, "Kurt's probably the hardest-working, longest-careered 'overnight success' in this business that I've ever seen. His work has always been so craftsmanlike and thorough, intelligent, thoughtful, and frequently downright inspired that I remain surprised that it took so long for it to be recognized as top-flight, as finally happened with *Marvels* and *Astro City*."

"Readers, reviewers, and retailers looked at those projects as breakthroughs for Kurt. I looked at those projects as breakthroughs for the readers, reviewers, and retailers; they'd finally caught up with Kurt's talent."

What people who haven't worked with Kurt may not be aware of — and he doesn't often reveal to the public — is his willingness to keep his idea mill running for others. Howell noted, "Kurt's not only an independent idea factory, but he's also an unending, selflessly generous source of conceptual advisories, plot tweakings, and editorial advice. Many's the time, whenever I told him about some new idea I was entertaining, he'd barrage me with more contributory refinings, embellishments, and general good advice than I could handle. I usually had to beg him to stop."

This week in

COMICS
BUYER'S
GUIDE

On the cover



Like Mark Waid, Kurt Busiek has found that encyclopedic comics knowledge can serve him well in the annual Pros vs. Fans Trivia Challenge at the annual Chicago comics convention. Before his own writing on such series as *Avengers*, *Iron Man*, and his creator-owned *Kurt Busiek's Astro City* was edited, Busiek was on the other side of the creative table — an editor looking at other writers' work — and he offers tips gleaned from both careers.

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News includes: Topps acquires Marvel card license; Gareb Shamus launches comics line; Jack Kirby's grandson launches comics line; DC plans more *Secret Files* and Bat-projects; Bob Gale has an Ant-Man story; NBM travels to Alpha Centauri; Big Apple Con became Hurri-Con; and Hurricane Floyd didn't dampen The Expo/SPX '99 **6 and elsewhere**

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Can you guess Kurt Busiek's Top 10 favorite comics?

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Geeksville cover art winner

Congratulations to **Augustus Fulton** of Sylmar, Calif., the winner of the original *Geeksville* art from the cover of *CBG* #1340. Augustus suggested merging *Reid Fleming*, *World's Toughest Milkman* with *Pete the P.O.'d Postal Worker*.

Putting *Bone* with several other titles ranging from *Castle Waiting* to *Uncle Scrooge* was the overwhelming response to the query, "What two comics titles would you like to see merged?" Perhaps the strangest suggestion was merging *Preacher* with *Akiko*.

Thanks to Gary Sassaman and Rick Koslowski for providing the prize.

OCTOBER ISSUE
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PREVIEWS



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October: the trees are beautiful, the weather is starting to get cooler, Halloween and all its wonderful spookiness is in the air...and of course *Previews* is right here to let you in on the best comics around for the beginning of the Fall season! On the front cover: The **Justice League of America** has to face its evil counterparts from a parallel world in DC's **JLA: Earth 2 HC!** Around back: Image Comics presents an amazing montage of images from their new indy titles!

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- Go to Hell and back with Image Comics' **Spawn Bible III!**
- **Wicked Ways!** Image Comics presents a killer new series—**The Wicked #1!**
- Marvel pulls out all the stops as the **Heroes Reborn Universe** quakes with the power of **Dr. Doom!**
- **Wizard #100** is here with a new issue of the magazine you love, including all of its regular features and much more!

COMICS

Don't be a stranger! Abstract Studio's **Strangers in Paradise #29** starts a new storyline. Plus: **SIP paper dolls** on the back cover!

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- End the Millennium with the first-ever 2,000-page comic book, **Comix 2000** by Fantagraphics.
- The heroes of the baseball diamond are now the newest heroes of the comic book world, thanks to Ultimate Sports new titles: **Cosmic Slam**, **Fastball Express**, **Shortstop Squad**, and **Super Sluggers**.
- Gotta catch 'em all, including the first Pokémon movie adaptation—Viz's **Pokémon Movie Adaptation Mewtwo Strikes Back #1!**

MAGAZINES

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FEATURES

Terry Moore talks about **Strangers in Paradise** and the series' new direction in an exclusive interview!

Also:

- **Interview with the Vampire...Writer!** Anne Rice tells all in a special *Previews* interview on her new comic series, **The Vampire Lestat!**



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Topps lands Marvel card license

After nearly 10 years as a Fleer-Sky-Box license, Spider-Man, The X-Men, Captain America, The Incredible Hulk, and The Fantastic Four — in fact, the entire stable of Marvel characters — have returned to an earlier trading card home with Topps' reacquisition of the license.

The comprehensive deal, announced Sept. 24, grants rights to other categories, as well, including sticker and album collections (to be marketed under Topps' Merlin brand), Action Flats collectibles, confectionery items, and other products. The worldwide agreement enables Topps to exploit its international distribution, which it gained from its purchase of Merlin Publishing several years ago.

In 1966, Topps began its relationship with Marvel with the release of a series of 12 gliders featuring Marvel characters. Beginning in the mid-'70s, Topps released a number of Marvel trading-card and sticker sets. In 1990, SkyBox (then



Impel) acquired the Marvel license and was eventually purchased by the Marvel Entertainment Group. The license stayed with the company until the conclusion of Marvel's bankruptcy late last year, when Fleer-SkyBox was sold to a private corporation led by Rite Aid founder Alex Grass.

Marvel CEO and President Peter Cuneo said, "Marvel and Topps have both been at the head of the pack when it comes to quality and exciting, innovative product. We're very pleased to be partnering with them on this latest venture and look forward to a long, rewarding relationship."

Marvel Vice President of Consumer Products Ken Abrams said, "Trading cards are a key component of our merchandising program, and Topps is the

"Topps will have a heightened presence in the comic-book community as a result of this relationship."

— Topps Vice-President of Publishing and New Product Development Ira Friedman

dominant player in the category. Marvel's characters combined with Topps' proprietary technologies and supported by its strategic brand marketing make for a potent partnership."

Under the new license, Topps will produce sets based on Marvel comics as well as motion pictures and television shows featuring Marvel characters. The license includes next year's *X-Men* movie. Topps Vice-President of Publishing and New Product Development Ira Friedman said, "The beauty of this opportunity is that it allows us to optimize our distribution capabilities in both the hobby market and the broader retail market."

Topps' initial plans call for a new series of Marvel trading cards based on the *X-Men* comics next spring, followed by a tie-in with the film *The X-Men* during the summer.

When asked whether Topps felt the overload of Marvel cards in the past decade would cause customers to not purchase new products, Friedman said, "We're hopeful this hiatus period [it will be a nearly two-year layoff by the time *The X-Men* set is released in the spring] will give us the opportunity to start fresh again with the franchise."

"We're certainly aware that a lot of sets have been put out over the years: some quite impressive, some that have sold phenomenally well, and some that weren't so impressive and didn't sell well. We are in the process of reacquainting ourselves with all of the sets that preceded ours, in an attempt to not duplicate what was done before us. It will be a challenge, but there is a stream of potential films coming down the pipeline that don't end with *The X-Men* and *Spider-Man*."

The trading-card license will have additional impact for Topps in another arena, according to Friedman. "Topps will have a heightened presence in the comic-book community as a result of this relationship, from the standpoint of working more closely with comic-book talent than we have in a while, working more closely with comics retailers than we have in a while, and having a higher profile at trade-related events and activities. You'll see us taking a more active role in that community than we have in the past few years."

Shamus to launch comics line

By Mike Doran and Matt Brady

According to reports, *Wizard* founder and CEO Gareb Shamus will launch a new publishing venture named Black Bull in January.

While the specifics of the breadth of Black Bull's publishing plan have yet to be revealed, it is said that its first product will be *GateCrasher*, a monthly comic book written by Mark Waid, with pencils and inks by Amanda Conner and Jimmy Palmiotti, respectively. The comic book was co-created by Waid, Conner, Palmiotti, Shamus, and *Wizard* President Fred Pierce and will not be creator-owned. The series is reportedly set to begin shipping in January.

While *Wizard* is said to be set to announce Black Bull and *GateCrasher* officially in late October, Waid did offer some comments about Black Bull and

the new series. Describing himself as "strictly a freelancer," in relation to the company and the series, Waid explained that Palmiotti and Shamus contacted him to write a comics series which he described as a "young-guy, super-hero fun-adventure strip."

While some creators have speculated that Black Bull may represent a conflict of interests for Shamus and Pierce, who could now be seen as competitors to DC, Marvel, Image, and the other comics publishers reported on in *Wizard*, many likened the situation to Fantagraphics, which publishes comics as well as *The Comics Journal*.

"I think it's a tempest in a teapot," Waid said of the controversy.

"If anything, I have a feeling the *Wizard* guys will bend over backward to avoid charges of impropriety, but that's

just my take.

"At this point, anything that gets potential customers into stores is a good idea. What attracted me was Gareb's commitment to top-of-the-line quality and promotion and a willingness to really do this right: spend the time and money it takes to develop something good, to ensure solid character design, to line up top talent for art and coloring and separations — to really give it his all rather than try to turn out comics on the cheap.

"On a similar note," Waid continued. "I like that Black Bull's first priority is to publish comics — not to publish loss-leader pamphlets for toys, videogames, etc."

"I'm sure there'll be merchandising at some point, but the immediate goal is to produce good comics."

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Return of the King. Kinda. Jack Kirby's *Captain Victory* is returning to comics once again, and there's still a "Kirby" behind it. **Jeremy Kirby**, the grandson of Jack, has announced the formation of a new publishing company called Kirby Comics in honor of his grandfather. According to Jeremy, the company is being formed to publish a new *Captain Victory* mini-series.

Originally written and envisioned by Jack Kirby as a film, 13 issues of *Captain Victory* were published by Pacific Comics between 1981 and 1984 and helped pave the way for the creators' rights movement that swept through the industry in the '80s.

The new black-and-white mini-series will be written by Jeremy Kirby and will reuse Jack Kirby's original *Captain Victory* art as well as previously unpublished work and rework them all into a new story. In addition, Kirby reported that the *Captain Victory* series will print a never-before-seen Kirby comic strip, *Valley Girl*,



Pacific published an earlier run of *Captain Victory and the Galactic Rangers* that ran 13 issues and one special.

as well as pin-up pages of a character that, according to Kirby, "were lost for 25 years."

"The comic book, which delves into the origin of Captain Victory, will deal with the creation of the Insectons and force Captain Victory into a fight for his life between himself and his grandfather, Black

Mass," Kirby said. "It's our goal to sweep a new generation of fans off their feet and cause their imaginations to run wild."

The three-issue series is set to launch in April.

DC Y2K guidebook. Change is in the air in the DC universe with new teams like The JSA and new versions of classic characters like The Spectre and Doctor Fate making recent debuts, and the upcoming new year promises even more changes, with new looks planned for Metropolis and Gotham City. There have been so many changes to the landscape, in fact, some readers might need a guide just to get around, which is exactly what DC will provide in January with the 96-page *Secret Files and Origins Guide to the DC Universe 2000*. Secret Files Editor **Maureen McTigue** said, "This can be considered a handbook for everyone who wants to know what's what in the DC universe as the new year, century, and millennium come upon us."

The 38-page lead story by writers **Dan Abnett** and **Andy Lanning** and artists **Scott Eaton** and **Ray Kryssing** gives readers a guided tour of all prominent DC heroes and as many DCU cities and locales as can fit, as seen through the eyes of Green Lantern.

"GL's been asked by the DEO to hunt for the missing Bedlam [the villain from *Young Justice: World without Grown-Ups*], who the DEO says is 'inhabiting' a hero," explained McTigue. "As he makes stops in

Metropolis, Gotham, New York, the JLA Watchtower, and beyond, GL discovers the plot that these devious DEO agents are spinning and soon finds himself face to face with Amazo 2000, a robot who has just had all the powers of all the heroes downloaded into his mainframe. Needless to say, there's a major smack-down."

Other features provide more information about the DC universe at large, including: first looks at the new skylines of the new Gotham and Metropolis; a map of DCU "trouble spots"; science and technology investigation by Blue Beetle; a run-down of the all DCU aliens and robots; a summary of "who runs what" in the DCU government; a visit to the Garden of Heroes; profile pages on all teams and families done by artists specific to each respective title; assorted smaller features provided by various creators; and, last but not least and sure to send continuity purists into a tizzy, what McTigue called "the ultimate, last-word timeline."

A Bat for the new millennium. Although Batman's all set to begin the year 2000 with a fresh new look, fresh new toys, and a new status quo, don't expect DC to ignore the storied past of the Bat-family. A number of mini-series and specials are in development that will take an in-depth look at the formative years of some of the supporting Bat-cast.

Former editor and "No Man's Land" architect **Jordan Gorfinkel** will return as

(Continues on Page 10)

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SCOUTING (From Page 8)

freelance writer in 2000 with a two-issue prestige-format series called *Batgirl: Master/Apprentice*. Illustrated by **Matt Broome** and **Sean Parsons**, according to Gorfinkel, it's a sort of a "Year — 5 to 1," bridging the new Batgirl's past and present over the span of five years and introducing a major new villain for her own Rogues Gallery.

Also in development is a Robin-Dick

Grayson Year 1 series (with the working title *Robin 1.1*) by writers **Chuck Dixon** and **Scott Beatty** and artist **Javier Pulido**. A four-part prestige-format series, the project covers the end of **Bruce Canwell's** and **Lee Weeks' Batman Chronicles: The Gauntlet** to Dick's first year as Robin. "The story has a lot of ups and downs, as Batman and Robin work out their relationship and nearly end it," said Dixon. "We deal with Robin's traumatic moment of truth with Two-Face and some first-time en-

counters with classic Batman villains. We also come out of the mini-series with a brand new villain and arch-nemesis for Dick Grayson, who will then show up in *Nightwing*."

In addition, **Greg Rucka** is currently working on a six-issue Huntress mini-series.

Gale's Ant Man. While the bulk of the Marvel Knights' Year Two projects won't see print until 2000, one quirky story will hit stores this December, written by **Bob Gale**: *Ant-Man's Big Christmas*. In it, Gale returns Hank Pym to his role of Ant-Man for nostalgic reasons.

"To us old-timers, Hank Pym is Ant-Man, and, hell, it's a comic book, and we can do that," he said. "But for the continuity geeks, there is a reference to Scott Lang, so that no one should get too upset."

"Basically, Hank and Janet are having an argument about why neither one wants to spend Christmas with the other one's family when they get a letter from a 12-year old boy who invites them to spend Christmas with his family. The kid hates his relatives (with good reason) and hopes that Ant-Man and Wasp can shake things up a little around his house so that Christmas is fun instead of miserably aggravating."

NBM travels to Alpha Centauri

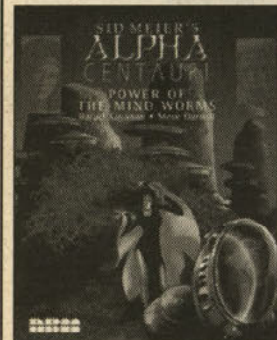
NBM has announced plans to adapt the computer game *Sid Meier's Alpha Centauri* as a series of graphic novels.

The story follows the adventures of a shipload of survivors from a devastated Earth, who attempt to colonize a new planet and preserve the human race. The group's leader is murdered as they arrive at the new world, which is named simply Planet. The remaining colonists split into several factions, each with its own philosophy, and the differences between factions often lead to war.

NBM Publisher Terry Nantier said, "For those who play the game, these graphic novels are the chance to get on Planet and witness it on a flesh-and-bone level."

The first issue, "Power of the Mindworms," focuses on two groups. The Gaian faction takes an ecological point of view that embraces closeness and respect for the new planet. The other faction is the Morgans, who seek enrichment at any cost. Although outgunned by Morgans, Gaians gain an advantage, when it's discovered that one member of the faction has the power to control Planet's dominant animal lifeform: the mindworms which have been attacking colonists and paralyzing their minds.

Rafael Kayanan and Steve Darnall are the creative team. Each 48-page 8 1/2" x 11" graphic novel will retail for \$7.95.



September Big Apple Con becomes Hurri-Con

By Brent Frankenhoff

With Hurricane Floyd working its way up the Eastern seaboard in mid-September, the organizers of The Big Apple Convention faced the possibility that their Sept. 17 and 18 show would be canceled. Organizer Michael Carbonaro said, "It was a dark Thursday night [Sept. 16], and nobody knew when the hurricane was going to hit. New York City was a ghost town. I've never seen it this deserted, even on a holiday."

"By Thursday night at midnight you could see the stars, and, by Friday morning, the skies had cleared, the dealers started to trickle in, and the fans came along."

Carbonaro referred to Big Apple's origins as "The Show Must Go on Show," following the last-minute cancellation of a Great Eastern Convention in the spring of 1996, when he said, "Would we let a hurricane stop us? Of course not. We turned the hurricane into Hurri-Con!"

"We had almost 1,000 attendees by the end of the day on Friday, with more than 1,500 attending Saturday. The show turned out to be a success."

Advance tickets for Big Apple's National Comic Book, Comic Art, and Fantasy Convention, scheduled for Nov. 12-14, were available at the show, and Carbonaro said that more than 200 were sold. A preview of the event will appear in next week's *CBG*.

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(Updated 3/24/99)



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THE EXPO SPX99

Postshow Roundup
Comics Buyer's Guide

By John Jackson Miller

Hurricane Floyd flailed, but failed to fend the faithful from attending The Expo/SPX '99, the East Coast's largest grassroots exposition for independent comics. While the September storm limited attendance at the PACER (Professional Association of Comics and Entertainment Retailers) trade show, which had started earlier at the Bethesda, Md., convention site, almost all of the more than 100 scheduled exhibitors made it to SPX in time for the event.

More than 1,000 small press fans attended the event, which, in addition to SPX and PACER programming, had a full slate of seminars held by the International Comics Arts Festival (ICAF). When an overflow crowd arrived for Neil Gaiman and Jeff Smith's joint ICAF/SPX program, their forum was simulcast on closed-circuit televisions in other areas of the convention.

Saturday brought awards.

On Saturday, Sept. 18, the 1999 Ignatz Awards were presented. The winners were:

- Outstanding Artist: Frank Cho (*Liberty Meadows*)
- Outstanding Graphic Novel or Collection: *Cages* by Dave McKean
- Outstanding Story: "David Boring" from *Eightball* #20 by Dan Clowes
- Promising New Talent: Brian



Ah, the end of a long day on the show floor. After timely arbitration, Tony Consiglio was left unharmed by *Box Office Poison* creator Alex Robinson.

Floyd fails to dampen The Expo/SPX '99

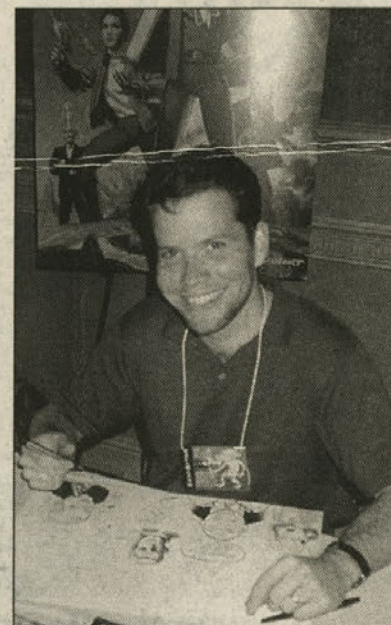


Dozens of independent comics publishers greeted fans at this year's Expo/SPX.

Ralph (*Fireball* #7)

- Outstanding Series: *The Extended Dream of Mr. D* by Max
- Outstanding Comic: *Liberty Meadows* #1
- Outstanding Mini-Comic: *Fireball* #7

Small Press Summit held Sunday. Sunday's Small Press Summit panel discussions provided to aspiring publishers helpful hints about promoting their comics. Marcus Meleton, publisher of *Pete, the P.O.'d Postal Worker* through Sharkbait Press, described his efforts to go outside traditional comics publicity channels by promoting his comic book to



Astounding Space Thrills creator Steve Conley sketched for fans.

postal employees and stamp collectors. Diamond Comic Distributors Vice President - Purchasing Bill Schanes closed the conference with his keynote state of the industry address.

For the first time, *Comics Buyer's Guide* provided the official event program, seen first by *CBG* readers in #1348. Consultant and columnist Bruce G. Costa, another Krause comics publication regular, delivered the PACER keynote speech on Friday. His lecture on finding employees in a tight labor market is serialized in *Comics Retailer* magazine beginning with CR #92.

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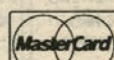
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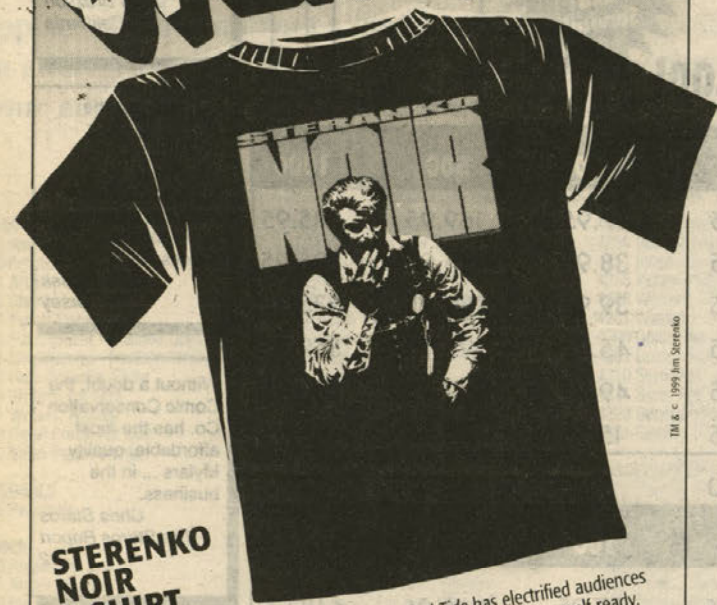
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Letters will be edited and may be cut due to length and other considerations. Responses to *Oh, So?* will be in first person, and — unless otherwise identified — will be by Maggie Thompson. Other respondents are signified by their initials:

JJM: Managing Editor John Jackson Miller

BWF: Projects Editor Brent Frankenhoff

JG: Associate Editor Joyce Greenholdt

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The best way to get in touch with us is by e-mail, fax, mail, and phone (in that order).

Chris Juricich

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I'm curious about your setup out there in Iola. Are you in the middle of rolling pastures and farm country? Do you live in apartments and suburban homes or do you all live in farmhouses or what? How long is winter there for you?

What's the deal you guys have with Human Computing? I'm not clear on what your mutual intentions are? Something about a database?

How many people work each month on *Comics Buyer's Guide*? How come I can never remember whether it's *Comic Buyer's Guide* or *Comics Buyer's Guide*? Or *Comics Buyer's Guide*? Why do I get so confused so easily?

What's Alan Light up to these days? I remember way back in 1972 getting his original adzine in the mail. What a shock!

How big's your staff?

[Yes, we actually are in the middle of rolling pastures and farm country. Oh, and timber. I've been told Waupaca County (which is where Iola is) has the highest per-acre deer population in the world — and we're also increasingly confronted by wild turkeys, which were introduced for hunters a few years ago. The turkeys are massively stupid and sometimes fly at windshield height, so some of our road hazards go beyond potholes. (And, actually, our roads are kept

in pretty good repair.) Iola has a population of less than 2,000 — nothing urban or suburban about it.

Winters are long. This is being written Sept. 22, and some areas around here had frost yesterday, though my outdoor thermometer was at 34°. We usually have a major snowstorm at some point near Thanksgiving (but that was true when I lived in northeastern Ohio, too). And there's usually a major snowstorm at some point near St. Patrick's Day. We don't get as much snow as I did in Ohio — but it's not rare to have the thermometer register -30°.

I thought we covered the Human Computing deal pretty completely in #1345: We're combining our information, which (among other things) gives *ComicBase* access to our information on a lot of independent material and us access to a lot of Golden Age data. It also involves Human Computing's participation in our *Resale Report*, which began in #1348. It lets both outfits give their customers the benefit of lots more information, which we're in favor of.

It's *Comics Buyer's Guide*.

I last heard at length from Alan earlier this year, right after he'd attended a banquet featuring President Clinton: lots of nice photos of Alan with the president.

Krause Publications listed 549 full-time staffers in its latest employee phone list — but not all of them are in Iola. All full-time *CBG* staffers do work in the Iola office, though — and editorially

there are four of us, all identified on Page 4 each issue.]

Paul Chatway

A lot of readers have sometimes complained that death is not treated seriously in comics. They point out that every time a major character dies at the climax of a story, some future writer will bring him or her back later, and it will make the meaning of their deaths pointless.

Seems like a waste of time — or does it? The themes of death and rebirth in literature have been explored for a long time now. Comic books are no different in this regard. If they are going to do a story where a person believed dead all of a sudden returns alive, the writers must be doing it only to tell a story — and the story must be a good one that readers will like.

That's the key to the situation: to do a story that readers will like and that will make them care about the characters all the more.

Having said that, there is a recent death in the comics that I would like to address [Spoiler warning: If you've been setting aside *Daredevil* to read in a stack, the rest of this letter discusses a recent plot development.]: A lot of people have been reading Kevin Smith's recent stories with *Daredevil* and know that Karen Page (who's been appearing in the series since 1964 and is an important

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For Art's Sake

By Chris Smigiliano



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person in Matt Murdock's life) was killed. Is she going to stay dead or will she be brought back at some later time?

You have to take a look at where Karen fits in with the ongoing Daredevil story. She is an important character; every writer from Stan Lee to Frank Miller has written stories in which Karen played key roles in the outcome of each. Frank Miller's "Born Again" saga is perhaps the best story that ever featured Karen; she made a terrible mistake that brought Matt's world crashing down around him, but then she did everything possible to correct that mistake.

Taking that into account, and the fact that she's been in the series almost nonstop from the very beginning, the indications are that Karen will, indeed, return at some later time. If and when the time comes, I hope the writer who does that story will do it in a manner that will make readers say, "Now, that was a good story!"

Bringing back characters in comics can be a good reading experience and doesn't cheapen the stories where these same characters died. As long as the writer goes the extra mile to make the story as good as possible, readers will enjoy it. It just comes with the territory when reading comics.

Richard M. Brown
2326 Cabot
Detroit, MI 48209

Fascinating! I'm an old-time comics reader who constantly worries about the prices and storylines of new comic books.

As a kid, I guess I figured "Comics Code Authority" was an all-powerful governing body. I figured my heroic Justice League was super-wholesome to have such protection. Maybe the appearance of such a CCA friend to families helped save comic books from extreme censorship.

I hope writers and artists would use good judgement. They might ask what values and plots drew them to comics as kids. They could picture, "What would I be proud to have family members see of

my creativity?" One matter does trouble me. How come the law keeps prosecuting comic-book dealers? "Big Brother" is a "Big Bother," if I have to be afraid of what comments I put in this letter. How can a retailer be expected to read and self-censor every comic book ever sold at his or her store?

Do we face a world in which airports can stop people, if they are carrying books unwelcome in that municipality? Think about it.

[Actually, that's probably true now, if you're speaking of the world as a whole.]

Hector M. Rambla
712 W. 176 St., 5E
New York, NY 10033

I usually like Walt Disney cartoon features from *Snow White* to *Hercules*. But I'm sick and tired of hearing people rave about Walt Disney's *Tarzan*. I have yet to see it and am sure I'm going to like it, because I bought the two-issue movie adaptation in comic-book form and loved it.

But Tony Isabella's favorable review in a recent *CBG* brought up a problem I have with the feature itself. It's not that Walt Disney's *Tarzan* was a venue for cute animal merchandise. Nor is it that the Walt Disney version violated ERB's classic *Tarzan* saga. My problem is with a feature-length cartoon that takes place in Africa but shows no blacks.

Some of my black friends seem to think that this was done out of political correctness. After all, it is well known that *Tarzan*, upon meeting blacks for the first time in *Tarzan of the Apes* and in *Jungle Tales of Tarzan*, didn't exactly hit it off as friends with them. However, much later in the saga (and when Jim Crow laws were still in full bloom in this land of ours) ERB did introduce into the saga Muviro and the Waziri. At the very least, they must have been the spiritual prose ancestors of Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's T'Challa (aka the Black Panther) and the Wakandas.

It's too bad that Hollywood once again ensured that Muviro and the Waziri never even made it as far as the cutting room floor. I always thought that the relationship among them, which was based on friendship, mutual respect, and admiration, was something to admire.

I also thought that, in prose at least,

their relationship was a brilliant counterpoint to Jim Crow laws and the segregation of the times — and still valid today.

The only other series during the '40s and '50s to do this was Russ Manning's *Brothers of the Spear*. Ironically, it was the back-up feature in Dell's *Tarzan* comic book.

[*JG*: Since the movie doesn't cover all of the events of Burroughs' original novel, it never reaches the point at which *Tarzan* first met the Waziri (which was, as you point out, later in the series).

Disney's adaptation covers a portion of the *Tarzan* saga in which there were really no black characters that would be acceptable to a modern audience. Of course, nothing says that Disney couldn't do a sequel that would cover *Tarzan*'s first meeting with the Waziri.]

Mike Robinson
206 Crim St.

Bowling Green, OH 43402

I'm glad that Peter David did acknowledge that he has a personal bias when he evaluated John Byrne's *Hulk Annual* #1. Even though I don't agree with his argument, that was sporting.

Everybody has favorite takes on characters. Part of the fun of being a comic-book fan is kicking those different takes around. However, I think it's increasingly silly to pretend that there is one, inviolate telling of a character's origin. Doing so denies the nature of the comic-book narrative. Origins change all the time. There was no mention of kryptonite or the energizing powers of a yellow sun when Superman first came to Earth. I bet Mr. Silver Age could give us hundreds of examples. Perhaps he'll fill a few columns by charting the twists and turns of super-hero origins. That would be fun to read.

Every creator fiddles with characters. For some, those changes are pure genius, while for others they are pointless meddling. For example, Peter David has gained fame by telling stories, among others, of a smart Hulk, an angelic Supergirl, and an Aquaman who lost his hand. That's certainly not how those characters started out. Some like those changes, others don't.

I should also note that the first two

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Wolff & Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre

By Batton Lash





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accomplishments came *after* Byrne meddled with those characters in the first place. That's not to say that Byrne made David. David has a career that stands on its own. However, if Byrne hadn't jostled the narrative order of those characters, we don't know if David would have been allowed to do so. Byrne and David are both veteran changers of characters. Only their methods differ. Since Byrne has left *Hulk*, we'll never know if more was to be done with Skrull Igor. Too bad, really; I like Skrulls.

At least one of David's criticisms doesn't stand up to the facts as we know them. David wants to argue that Byrne hates coincidence. Byrne might just, at that, but in the case of Spider-Man's origins, Byrne is just *changing* coincidences, not eliminating one. In *Amazing Spider-Man* #200, we learned that the burglar came to the Parker house in order to find money concealed in the house's walls by Dutch Mallone, a prohibition-era gangster who was caught by none other than Eliot Ness. The burglar killed Uncle Ben when, like a true hero, Ben stood up to this intruder.

That story was written in 1979 by Marv Wolfman. Thus, for two decades, the only *real* coincidence in Spidey's origin is that Spidey met this burglar in the first place and failed to stop him, thus learning the important link between power and responsibility in the hardest possible way.

Nelson Jimenez
75 Maple Tree Ave.
Stamford, CT 06906

I recently had a letter published in *CBG* #1349 about Native American super-heroes. Since then, I have found a bunch more that I had forgotten about.

So before other comics fans write in stating that I overlooked many characters, here are more: Shaman (*Alpha Flight*), American Eagle (Marvel); OwlWoman (Global Guardians), Johnny Cloud (*Losers*, DC); Turok (Valiant, and I couldn't believe I forgot him, because he is the best Indian character in comics).

I tried to find a Jack Kirby creation and the only one I could think of was Wyatt Wingfoot (of *Fantastic Four* fame). Great name and strong character. I sure hope there are other Native American heroes out there, so, please, comics fans, write!

[*Turok*, of course, originated with the Dell line of comics and was later licensed to Valiant — now Acclaim.

And the most *terrific* stories about a character named American Eagle were by John Severin and Will Elder for *Prize Comics Western* in the early '50s.]

Matt Levin
Walking Man Comics
123 Elm St.
Hatfield, MA 01038

Please let me add two recent comics to Nelson Jimenez' list of American Indians in comics. While not necessarily persons I'd list in a top 10 of Native American heroes, these are new characters certainly deserving a look.

"Peace Party," written by Rob Schmidt, features two young men who have just discovered supernatural powers within themselves; it features a lot of — features directly concerned with native people's lives, present and historic. There are two issues currently available. Write Rob at Blue Corn Comics, #204, 6150 Buckingham Pkwy., Culver City, CA 90230.

"Browser and Sequoia" by Richard de Montebello, with art by Gene Gonzales, is set back in a time of (talking!) sabertooth cats and woolly mammoths (Browser of the title is one) and native people of the time, of whom Sequoia is a young one. Beautifully produced and cleverly written, this's a lovely "all-ages" (i.e., especially suitable for young readers) comic book, with two issues currently available from SaberCat Comics, 252 W. Main St., Suite 7, Abingdon, VA 24210.

And how could Jimenez forget John Proudstar? Well OK, most everybody's forgotten poor Proudstar, but he *was* an X-man for, what? Two issues?

[What about Red Raven (*X-Men* #44) and Warhawk (*X-Men* #110)? The curious can check out Proudstar, aka Thunderbird, in *X-Men* #95.]

Dana Gabbard
PMB 362

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Los Angeles, CA 90010

I truly enjoyed myself at the San Diego Convention this year: always a treat to spend time with friends, pick up comics, and briefly escape the daily grind. Many of us, I think, are just glad the industry has weathered the past few years and is still on its feet (albeit staggering from time to time).

I always find something I have to have at the Bud Plant display. It blows my mind I've been a customer of Bud's since 1975 — and every order over the years has been handled with true professionalism.

Again, I made my biggest score of Mark Evanier-written Gold Key comics at the Nostalgia Zone booth. I even found some *Scooby Doo*s (which are very hard to find). Joel Thingvall and his crew bring the comics hardly anyone else has year after year.

I see more and more dealers offering old comic-book *fanzines*. Maybe Bill Schelly's books on early fandom has ignited interest in these? And it was nice to see Bill attending again. Now, when is the con finally going to have a panel on early fandom with Bill as moderator? It is long overdue.

The crowds clustered at anime dealers seemed the most excited on the floor (and certainly most difficult to get past).

A waitress at a restaurant near the convention center told me we comic-book fans are more interesting than the average convention goer. We are capable of conversations on an astonishing range of topics.

My only disappointment was that the Scott Shaw! oddball-comics slide show (a convention tradition) was truncated and had to start late because the program before it was behind schedule. It deserves at least two hours to build up the right rhythm. What Scott was able to show us was a hoot and treat. I look forward to his show next year.

The con committee is again eyeing a move to Anaheim because of traffic and parking issues
(Continues on Page 20)



THE WARD WAS LIKE A TOMB... SILENT... WITH LONG SHADOWS CLIMBING THE BARE STERILE WALLS. IT WAS FAMILIAR TO MORTON LESSER, M.D. PAIN... DEATH... HE SAW THESE THINGS EVERY DAY! BUT STILL, THE HOSPITAL BED WAS SO SMALL! PERHAPS THERE WAS A PATTERN... A REASON FOR THINGS LIKE THIS. THERE WAS, IT WAS BEYOND HIM?



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in downtown San Diego — especially with a new sports stadium soon to be erected near the convention center. If I lived in San Diego, I'd sure let local civic leaders know that something should be done to address the concerns of the convention. Of course, since I live in L.A., a move to Anaheim would be great for me! Comic-Con International: Los Angeles. Has a nice sound.

[I was a participant in a "fandoms" panel some years ago at San Diego which drew only a tiny audience. Its focus was the different "fandoms" which go together to make the potential San Diego attendee pool. So we had, as I recall, Julius Schwartz, Fred Patten, someone from Star Trek fandom, and me. Each of us pulled, I think, two people — and in that audience of eight (maybe as many as 12), no one cared about any fandom but his or her own.]

Maybe times have changed. Certainly, there are enough of us around from the early '60s that a panel would be easy to field. But would there be an audience?]

Joe Petrilak

I am a Valiant fan. Now that you have stopped laughing, I would like to pose in a roundabout way a question for comics writers.

My choices as a Valiant fan are to read back issues. I pick one or two at random pretty much every night and re-read them. Then I remember when they came out and compare my reaction to the comic book then and now.

There is a huge difference between reading the *Watchmen* series as it came out and picking it up as a trade paperback. In one case, you're waiting for the payoff; in the other, you're reading a whole idea in one sitting. In this case, I experienced the latter and was not that impressed, but I can see how it is such a great series, "if I were there," nonetheless, because of the writing.

Take *Superman* #75. If it came out as a trade paperback, would it still sell record numbers? I would think not, because you would have lost the moment of truth — the climax — as it happened.

Ultimately, I am left with one question: Was it well-written? More times than not, no.

I am not putting down anything here, I just mean: Was the original writer's intent to push the series another issue along and get a check, or was it to write something great? Was the story a part of a greater story? Was it a one-issue story with a lesson to be learned?

In the Valiant universe, there were several "moments of truth." The climax of *The Malev War* or *Solar* #60 or *Dr. Tomorrow* #1 or *Visitor* #13 or *Unity* #1 or many others that you just had to be there for. Re-reading them now, I feel as though I've lost something.

Writers have the power of creation. The story starts with them. So I ask all writers: Are you pushing the story along another issue, or are you building up to something greater with your power?

With the current discussion of back issues, I ask: Are the comics you're writing today worthy of a second reading? I would like to know.

[But if Watchmen had come out only in col-

lected form, foregoing serialized publication, that would have had the moment of truth as it happened. It's one of the aspects of Stephen King's work that has made it so popular.]

Howard Bender

515 Buxton Rd.

Toms River, NJ 08755

"Excellent," "Cool," "Just right!" This was Sal Trapani.

I was sorry to hear that Sal had passed away. Among my favorite comics I read growing up were *The Fantastic Four*, *Spider-Man*, *Green Lantern*, *The Justice League of America*, and, of course, *Metamorpho* — definitely, the coolest off-beat late-'60s comic book.

I really enjoyed the book's high-kitsch characters, which were brilliantly drawn by Ramona Fradon and then by Sal. Though he came late to the series, his high-quality art and ability to introduce new, compelling characters (different from any others at the time) added greatly to its enjoyment and kept me looking forward to each new issue.

I first met Sal Trapani in the mid-'70s. I was a young artist on staff in the Marvel Bullpen, when Sal came in one day to put the finishing touches on an issue he was inking. Three different up-and-coming young artists had pencilled it, and it was Sal's job to professionally pull all three of these totally different styles together into one cohesive work. Looking over his shoulder, I was impressed with what he had done.

I had seen the boys in the back room pencilling this labor of love and could see just how far it had come. I commented on what a fine job he was doing and how important the inker is to the look of a comic book: that a good inker just doesn't copy the penciller's work but brings it to life.

After I said this, Sal looked up and gave me a big, knowing grin; from then on, whenever he came up to the offices, we always found time to talk shop. His colorful way of expressing himself, along with his look — goatee, thick, black-rimmed Buddy Holly glasses, and Beach Boys striped shirts — gave the impression Sal was from the '50s beat generation, that he could have been comfortable drawing in a dark coffee house or on the drag strip, racing with Big Daddy Roth, or even DJ-ing rock 'n' roll platters. Sal's favorite exclamation was "Copacetic!" which translates to excellent, cool, everything is just right! That was Sal.

Soon after I started pencilling, Sal started inking my work. Either by request or just plain fate, we found ourselves working together more and more: *Ghostbusters*, *Robotech*, *Archie*, and any other project that either one of us felt was right for the two of us to do together, we ended up doing.

Sal also had his Ralph Kramden side: You know, the get-rich dreamer. We worked together on one wonderful project for years but just couldn't get it off the ground. Sal first pitched it as a newspaper strip, then as an animated cartoon series, and even as a CD-ROM. All of that, to my knowledge, never got any further than our own drawing boards. But the fun was worth the effort! Hey, if Sal has his say about it, it may still see publication someday!

"Excellent, cool, everything is just right" — that's Sal Trapani. God bless ya, Sal, I know wherever you are it's just gotta be copacetic! ☐

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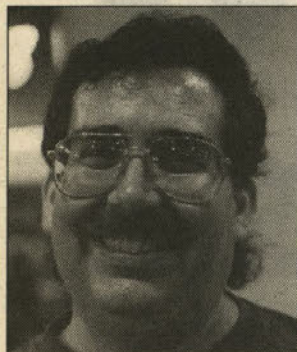
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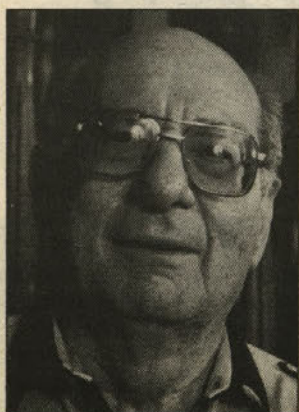
"Why don't you just kill yourself?"

— Anonymous postcard, 1988



"From their letters columns, I formed my own conceptions of the editors. Julius Schwartz seemed to be a serious man and had the best pro-and-con letters columns in the business."

— Tony Isabella



When I got up this morning, I decided this week's *Tips!* would be a "Medina Mailbag" column in which I printed and responded to a few letters I've received in recent months. But, when I sat down to work on it, I started thinking about an online discussion I had taken part in over the weekend, a discussion about letters columns in comic books.

Some of the non-professional participants in the discussion had been astonished by my comments. I realized that things I had thought to be common knowledge weren't as well known as I had believed them to be.

So, your letters will have to wait a couple weeks. This time out, we're going to delve into — cue dramatic fanfare — the secrets behind the comic-book letters columns.

There are and have been many valid reasons for running letters pages in comic books. The more a publisher gets a reader involved with a title, the more likely the reader will continue to buy the title. Reader feedback — though not as important as sales — can be helpful in deciding the direction of a title.

Although this may not be a factor these days, the old second-class mailing permits used to require some text material in comics. Letter columns are easier to produce than educational pieces or short stories. They are probably cheaper, as well.

For many comics writers and artists of my generation and the one which followed, the letters pages were a way of connecting with the editors for whom, someday, we hoped to work. There are dozens upon dozens of creators who "graduated" from letters columns to the comics themselves. Some names which come to mind are Roy Thomas, Mark Evanier,

Mike W. Barr, Carl Gafford, Bob Rozakis, Wendy Pini, Marty Pasko, Klaus Janson, Dave Cockrum, Mark Gruenwald, and even Todd McFarlane.

A young Harlan Ellison had a letter in DC's *Real Fact Comics* #6, expressing his parents' approval of the 1940s title. The issue is also notable for the origin-first appearance of Tommy Tomorrow, in a short tale drawn by the legendary fantasy and science-fiction illustrator Virgil Finlay.

When I went to work for Marvel Comics in the 1970s, it seemed as though every one of the company's writers, with the possible exception of Steve Englehart, had shown up in at least a couple of letters pages before breaking into the professional ranks. Besides Thomas, that would have included Gerry Conway, Gary Friedrich, Mike Friedrich (no relation to Gary), Steve Gerber, Don McGregor, Doug Moench, Len Wein, Marv Wolfman, and yours truly.

When I first started paying attention to letters columns, I was amazed at how they differed from editor to editor, and even from title to title. Mort Weisinger always seemed to be talking down to his readers in the *Superman* letters columns, but, when E. Nelson Bridwell took them over, they gained an almost scholarly demeanor. In retrospect, Bridwell was that eccentric teacher whose class you always enjoyed.

From their letters columns, I formed my own conceptions of the editors. Julius Schwartz seemed to be a serious man and had the best pro-and-con letters columns in the business. Richard E. Hughes, the editor of ACG titles like *Forbidden Worlds* and *Herbie*, came off as a sometimes-cranky next-door neighbor; I pictured him as Mr. Wilson from the *Dennis the Menace* comics. Stan Lee, once he succumbed to his impish nature, did the most enthusiastic letters columns in the business.

Murray Boltinoff was a sweetheart of a man. I never doubted he was a consummate professional, but he had a clear affection for his readers. I have probably a dozen postcards he sent in response to my letters and I treasure them.

I never knew what to make of Robert Kanigher's *Wonder Woman* letters pages, what with all the little girls writing in to ask the Amazon Princess to take them to Paradise Island. Did they really think she was a real person? Or was Kanigher just goofing on his readers? He did have an interesting sense of humor.

My first job at Marvel Comics was packaging reprints of early Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, and Hulk stories for The Mighty World of Marvel, the first of the company's in-house "British weeklies." The weeklies didn't have the slick covers or interior color of the American comics and broke the stories into serialized installments.

But they did have letters pages and, my first day on the job, I had to write one.

Either Sol Brodsky (who was in charge of the weeklies) or Roy Thomas handed me a large envelope containing a couple dozen pieces of British fan mail. The first letter I read was from a kid named Neil Gaiman telling us that, when he grew up, he was going to work for DC Comics and do Sandman wrong.

I'm lying. The first letter I read was from Alan Moore asking me if it was true the Swamp Thing's tubers were high in potassium and an important part of a complete breakfast.

After so many years of writing to comics editors, I was pretty excited to be on the other end of those letters. Until I started reading them.

I hadn't realized the British weeklies were aimed at younger readers than our American comics. These kids were earnest enough, but the letters were as poorly written and as uninteresting as they came. I'd estimate maybe one in 12 came even remotely close to being usable — and that wouldn't be nearly enough to fill a weekly column. So, naturally, the universe being the cruel thing it is, *Spider-Man Comics Weekly* — a second title — was quickly added to the schedule. I'm not sure, but I think Warren Ellis had something to do with it. Those darned Brits!

The notion of *not* running letters columns was dismissed as soon as it was brought up. We all knew the value of getting the readers involved in the titles. So, in order to prepare the columns, I had to forgo complete and utter honesty and adopt what probably wasn't even the second-best policy.

If any letter was within 10 city blocks of being publishable, I would rewrite it for use in the columns. I suspect some of our fans were astonished at how wonderful their letters read in print. If any of them were at all upset by the editing, they were too kind or polite to complain. To my very small credit, I made certain the published versions of their letters still represented their

actual views, pro or con, on the comics.

When the rewritten letters weren't enough, I wrote completely bogus fan letters. I kept bugging poor Glynis Oliver (then Wein) for names of British towns that I could use in my base duplicity. I tried very hard not to think about the lonely fan in Abertillery who spent so many fruitless hours trying to find and meet the "Toni Lewis" who had written that smashing letter in last month's *Mighty World of Marvel*. "Surely," he must have wailed to the very heavens, "some one knows where she lives!"

I even have a vague memory of going through old Marvel comics for fan letters commenting on the stories we had reprinted in the weeklies — and rewriting a few of them for use therein. My perfidy knew no bounds.

But, after a while, I started noticing a change in the mail we were receiving on the weeklies. There were never a lot of letters, but the ones we were getting were more interesting and much better written.

Maybe these readers were inspired by the bogus letters we ran. Maybe they were getting older and more adept at expressing themselves. Maybe there was only one literate reader writing all the letters under assumed names; there would have been poetic justice in that.

I don't lean toward any particular theory in this. I merely report what happened.

By this time, I was editing some of Marvel's black-and-white comics magazines and also helping out with the color comics. This included doing letters columns for various titles.

Unlike the weeklies, Marvel's comics and magazines of the day were receiving a great many letters from very articulate readers. However, as we'll discuss next week, that abundance of response was not an unmixed blessing. See you then.

CBG readers should keep watching the order catalogs for *Star Wars Tales* #2 from Dark Horse Comics. The first issue had a story by Peter David, and this second anthology has one by Tony Isabella. Buy enough copies, and maybe they'll get around to running stories by Mark Evanier, Fred Hembeck, and Holly Simpson.

Comments on and review items for this column can be sent to: **Tony's Tips!**, P.O. Box 1502, Medina, OH 44258. You can also e-mail Tony at: tonyisa@ohio.net.

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COMICS IN YOUR FUTURE

Publisher's & Retailer Picks & Reviews

For November releases

A number of publishers were recently asked to choose, from the material they have scheduled to ship in November, which titles they felt would be most worthy of the attention of readers and collectors. Participating retailers were then asked to predict how popular each title will be and to grade each preview from A+ to F, according to how successful they found it as a work of art or entertainment.



Tarzan: Rivers of Blood #1

Dark Horse, 32 pages, color, \$2.95

Neven Anticevic and Igor Kordey take Edgar Rice Burroughs' Lord of the Jungle back to Europe in the days before World War I, where he seeks a psychological cure from Dr. Sigmund Freud for Jane, who has been put under a spell by a witch doctor.

Biggers: It's always nice to see Tarzan handled with respect. Anticevic and Kordey have produced a Tarzan story that captures the grimmer aspects of Burroughs' Tarzan — the aspects that are often overlooked by those who only remember with nostalgia the noble-savage storylines and the fantastic worlds into which Tarzan ventured. This series, set against the backdrop of World War I, reminds us that there is a barely controlled savage side to Tarzan's nature. Kordey's art is strong, although his color palette on this series is at times reminiscent of the bolder colors that Richard Corben uses; it's quite a break from what I'm accustomed to seeing Kordey do. Grade: A-

Bahls: Kordey's art is superb in this intense, well-written Tarzan tale. The colors bring out the dark mood of the entire storyline. This is a tale of espionage,

war, and basic human nature and a look at history as seen by Burroughs through his Tarzan stories. Great storytelling done in comics form. Grade: A.

Bennett: Even from an incomplete photocopy, it's clear this is likely to be one of the smartest, coolest, and most beautiful Tarzan comics of the year. Of course there's your usual archetypal action-adventure, but it's mixed with a clever *Ragtime*-like meeting between the ape man and one of the 20th century's most influential figures — with stunning art that uses a European comics style palette of extreme colors which brings the jungle to vivid life. Grade: B.

Inwood: A great story about Tarzan and Jane. Any Tarzan fan should love this one. The art looks dark and mystical and goes with the intense storyline. Grade: B.

Keeney: This is a great, straightfor-

ward Tarzan tale. Unlike some earlier comics stories, you won't find political or New Age mumbo-jumbo in this story. What you will find is lots of action, drama, and magic. The art in this series is absolutely stunning. Do not miss it! Grade: A.

Mateer: The gorgeously colored art has echoes of Richard Corben and some European influences. It looks like a Tarzan script adapted for an early-'80s issue of *Heavy Metal* (and, yes, I mean that as a good thing). No actual script was provided with the preview, unfortunately, but the plot looks clever and intriguing and manages to show off a strong knowledge of both the Tarzan mythos and the "real world" of the early 1900s; it's a worthy addition to Lord Greystoke's history. Grade: B+.

Retailers' grade: A-

Retailer panelists reviewing November titles:

Peggy Bahls
Cosmic
Comics,
Helena, MT



S.A. Bennett
Dark Star
Books &
Comics, Yellow
Springs, OH



Cliff Biggers
Dr. No's
Comics,
Marjetta, GA



Diane Inwood
Fan-Quest,
Yuma, AZ



Mike Keeney
Comic
Corner,
Huntsville, AL



Phil Mateer
All about
Books and
Comics,
Phoenix, AZ

Dignifying Science

G.T. Labs, 144 pages, b/w, \$16.95

Mateer: *Two-Fisted Science* was a pleasant surprise, with its inspiring, humanizing portrayal of scientists and their obsessions; this is even better. Its focus on women scientists and their struggles, disappointments, and successes should be required reading in every junior and senior high-school science class in America. If you know any 14-year-old girls with the slightest aptitude in math or the sciences, you can change their lives by buying them this. The art is uniformly excellent — these artists, who know quite a bit about the problems of succeeding in a male-dominated profession, are masterful in communicating emotion with just a look, a sigh, a raised eyebrow, or a resigned shrug. No question: This is the best title of the month. Grade: A.

Bahls: Here's another approach to reach women today. Just as Ottaviani's earlier *Two-Fisted Science* was an award-winner, this also should be. Not only is it geared toward girls and women, but also anyone interested in science and historical figures. Each story is done by different artists, many with many years of experience in the comics field. Grade: A.

Bennett: Like its predecessor, *Two-Fisted Science*, *Dignifying Science* is a wonderfully eclectic anthology of diverse talents, but clearly the jewel in the crown is Carla Speed McNeil's stranger than fic-

tion story of the scientific achievements of Hedy Lamarr. And it's all crowned by a stunning cover of Lamarr by the great Ramona Fradon. (Somebody, please persuade her to return to comics more often.) Grade: A.

Biggers: Ottaviani's comic-book retellings of important moments in the history of science have always worked for me. He knows how to make a story work in comic-book form: what to emphasize, what succeeds visually. The results have always been satisfying, and *Dignifying Science* is no exception. Grade: A.

Inwood: Hey, I have to say that I didn't think I would like this, but, as soon as I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. Good black-and-white art and great stories. Very interesting if you like historical comics. Grade: B.

Keeney: Rich and detailed footnotes add dimension to these well-researched and well-written docudramas. Most of the stories, like the Hedy Lamarr feature, flow well, but some are a little dry and hard to follow. *Dignifying Science* is educational, entertaining, and a home schooler's dream. Grade: B+.

With the help of several female artists including Donna Barr, Mary Fleener, Stephanie Gladden, Robert Gregory, Lea Hernandez, Carla Speed McNeil, Linda Medley, Jen Sorenson, Anne Timmons, Ramona Fradon, and Marie Severin, Jim Ottaviani tells of such female scientists as Marie Curie, Rosalind Franklin, Birute Galdikas, and Hedy Lamarr.



Retailers' grade: A-

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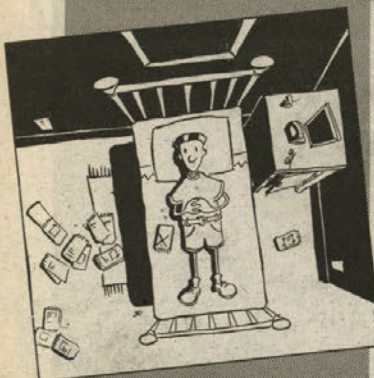
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Can of Worms

Fantagraphics, 88 pages, b/w, \$12.95



Bahls: As often happens, Fantagraphics has found another gem. We see the difficulties and work that Doherty put into her search. The art is simple but effective in telling the story. Grade: **B+**.

Bennett: Effective, engaging, and wholly original, this simple human story is told in a straightforward manner that gathers momentum and power until it comes to its bittersweet conclusion. In a market of too-often-deadening sameness, we once again owe Fantagraphics a debt for publishing such an unusual work. Grade: **A**.

Biggers: Doherty is very talented, there's no doubt about it; as

I waded through the 88-page graphic novel about a woman's search for her own birth family, I realized that I liked what I saw. However, I found the wordless comics approach to this story to be tedious and, after a while, numbing. This was a story that really called out for dialogue, and the wordlessness came across as little more than an affectation. One visual problem: Doherty blended cartoony art and photo-referenced realistic art in a manner that was sometimes intrusive. She should have more confidence in her own style than that; the photo-referenced work was very unsatisfying compared to her stylized work.

Grade: **C+**.

Inwood: A simple story of a girl trying to find her birth mother. Not my type of story, but those who are in this situation may be interested. The art is simplistic. Grade: **C**.

Mateer: An autobiographical comic book about the author's search for her birth mother? A lot of readers will roll their eyes and pass on this, expecting a self-indulgent tearfest — but they'll be wrong. For a new creator, Doherty is remarkably sure-footed. Her decision to eliminate dialogue and, instead, communicate the exposition through actual documents, letters, etc., keeps the tone objec-

tive and clear-eyed; she's a good journalist who knows how to give the facts, step aside, and let the story shine through. The disadvantage of this approach is at the end, where lack of explanation muddies the conclusion. Grade: **B**.

Keeney: This graphic novel is an intelligent and intense emotional rollercoaster. The characters and situations are so unusual and personal they must be based on personal experience. Unfortunately, the dynamic and sad ending is vague and hard to follow. Overall, this is excellent, dramatic, and insightful reading. Grade: **A**.

Retailers' grade: **B**

Superman, Inc.

DC, 64 pages, color, \$6.95



Mateer: Ever notice how "Elseworlds" stories, like the "Imaginary" stories before them, are mostly about screwing up the main characters' pasts, and then showing how, despite the change, everything ends up the same, anyway? (Bruce Wayne may get adopted by the Kents, but sooner or later he's gonna be wearing that bat symbol.) *Superman, Inc.* does just that, by offering a Supes who, due to an early childhood trauma, has subconsciously blocked most of his powers and still ends up as a world-famous, Michael Jordan-class athletic star — in every sport. How does he

eventually ditch the livin'-large, ego-swelling limelight and get into the fight for Truth, Justice, etc.? That's the fun part, and Vance's script and García-López' clear, comfortable art provide a lot of entertainment in showing us the way. Grade: **B+**.

Bahls: This also is another look at Superman and an alternate storyline. We see Superman, not as the good, polite, overly nice guy that we have all known, but what he might have been like. As is all too familiar these days with the Elseworlds series, this is well written and good reading. A must for all Superman fans and most

others, as well. Grade **B+**.

Bennett: Any chance to see the lush, full art of García-López is good cause to celebrate, but the story in this Elseworlds one-shot doesn't fall short, either. It's a Capraesque fable about what constitutes a "superman" in our celebrity-obsessed reality — and, ultimately, a ringing endorsement for everything good that stands behind the icon. Grade: **B**.

Biggers: Have I ever mentioned how much I like García-López' artwork? One look at this Elseworlds title will reveal why; he has a visual style that's so smooth, so capable, so balanced

that he perfectly complements any writer's script. This story of a super-athlete is an entertaining alternate-world look at the Superman mythos, but it's the art that makes it sparkle. Grade: **A**.

Inwood: Excellent story and art. DC doesn't go wrong with its Elseworlds comics. Pick this one up! Grade: **A+**.

Keeney: The art is beautiful and dynamic. The story carefully explores the heart of the Superman character. It is great reading for both long-time fans and new readers. Grade: **A**.

Retailers' grade: **A-**

Fred the Possessed Flower TPB

Happy Predator, 416 pages, b/w, \$14.95



Bahls: Someone has a perverse and way-out sense of humor. I truly enjoyed this storyline — but, then, I also have the kind of mind that really enjoys this type of humor. To see an overweight, hairy man with tiny wings representing the Tooth Fairy sort of makes you wonder where the rest of the story is going. You don't have long to wait. This moves along quickly and takes jabs at just about anything Hardcastle wants to. This might not appeal to all and might upset some, but I found it a real hoot. I chuckled all the way through. Grade: **B+**.

Keeney: This was not to my liking. The humor is simple and

poorly timed. The art, although often very professional, is cluttered and distracting. The situations are so outlandish and over the top, they lose drama. The covers are neat, and the idea of the huge indy anthology discussed in the editorials is fascinating, but, unfortunately, the grade is a **D**.

Bennett: Technically amateurish and more pedestrian than "outrageous," *Fred the Possessed Flower* isn't nearly as dark and twisted as it aspires to be, and the attempts at both comedy and social commentary are obvious and empty. If there's a point, it escapes me. Grade: **C**.

Mateer: The best thing about

"Happy" Nick Hardcastle packages the first six issues of his series with seven new stories of Fred, Hell's marketing vice-president who has to take the place of the Tooth Fairy, The Boogie Man, Cupid, and other fantasy characters when they go on strike.

this series is the covers; they're done in a Claymation style that makes the title character, a leering sunflower in a tiny pot, scary and funny at the same time. (Get these guys a good camera and a book on Ray Harryhausen, and they've got a great MTV cartoon in there somewhere.) Unfortunately, the idea is pretty much a one-note joke, and seven issues, plus additional stories, are way more *Fred* than anyone really needs. (It doesn't help that this is probably the worst-proofread comic book I've ever reviewed — and that's saying something — with spelling mistakes and clunky dialogue all over the place.) A good editor and

better ideas are needed before this can hope to compete with the pros. Grade: **C-**.

Biggers: I'm afraid this one got weeded out of my favorites list right away. The art shows promise, but the storyline seems disjointed, and I get the feeling that it's much funnier to "Happy," the writer-artist, than it is to the audience. Grade: **D**.

Inwood: Some of the characters were interesting and a switch from how they are usually perceived. This didn't keep my interest, since it was too silly, though good for a few laughs. Grade: **C**.

Retailers' grade: **C-**

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348 VF/NM 18.00	57 FN 95.00	143 FN+ 16.00	60 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		FOREVER PEOPLE 103 VF+ 52.00	42 VF+ 39.00	65 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
349 VF 13.00	58 FN 95.00	144 FN+ 16.00	61 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		104 VF+ 52.00	43 VF+ 39.00	66 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
350 VF+ 15.00	59 FN 95.00	145 FN+ 16.00	62 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		105 VF+ 52.00	44 VF+ 39.00	67 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
351 FN+ 6.00	60 FN 95.00	146 FN+ 16.00	63 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		106 VF+ 52.00	45 VF+ 39.00	68 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
352 VF/NM 18.00	61 FN 95.00	147 FN+ 16.00	64 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		107 VF+ 52.00	46 VF+ 39.00	69 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
353 VF 13.00	62 FN 95.00	148 FN+ 16.00	65 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		108 VF+ 52.00	47 VF+ 39.00	70 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
354 VF+ 15.00	63 FN 95.00	149 FN+ 16.00	66 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		109 VF+ 52.00	48 VF+ 39.00	71 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
357 VF+ 15.00	64 FN 95.00	150 FN+ 16.00	67 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		110 VF+ 52.00	49 VF+ 39.00	72 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	65 FN 95.00	151 FN+ 16.00	68 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		111 VF+ 52.00	50 VF+ 39.00	73 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	66 FN 95.00	152 FN+ 16.00	69 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		112 VF+ 52.00	51 VF+ 39.00	74 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	67 FN 95.00	153 FN+ 16.00	70 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		113 VF+ 52.00	52 VF+ 39.00	75 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	68 FN 95.00	154 FN+ 16.00	71 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		114 VF+ 52.00	53 VF+ 39.00	76 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	69 FN 95.00	155 FN+ 16.00	72 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		115 VF+ 52.00	54 VF+ 39.00	77 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	70 FN 95.00	156 FN+ 16.00	73 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		116 VF+ 52.00	55 VF+ 39.00	78 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	71 FN 95.00	157 FN+ 16.00	74 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		117 VF+ 52.00	56 VF+ 39.00	79 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	72 FN 95.00	158 FN+ 16.00	75 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		118 VF+ 52.00	57 VF+ 39.00	80 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	73 FN 95.00	159 FN+ 16.00	76 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		119 VF+ 52.00	58 VF+ 39.00	81 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	74 FN 95.00	160 FN+ 16.00	77 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		120 VF+ 52.00	59 VF+ 39.00	82 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	75 FN 95.00	161 FN+ 16.00	78 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		121 VF+ 52.00	60 VF+ 39.00	83 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	76 FN 95.00	162 FN+ 16.00	79 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		122 VF+ 52.00	61 VF+ 39.00	84 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	77 FN 95.00	163 FN+ 16.00	80 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		123 VF+ 52.00	62 VF+ 39.00	85 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	78 FN 95.00	164 FN+ 16.00	81 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		124 VF+ 52.00	63 VF+ 39.00	86 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	79 FN 95.00	165 FN+ 16.00	82 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		125 VF+ 52.00	64 VF+ 39.00	87 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	80 FN 95.00	166 FN+ 16.00	83 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		126 VF+ 52.00	65 VF+ 39.00	88 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	81 FN 95.00	167 FN+ 16.00	84 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		127 VF+ 52.00	66 VF+ 39.00	89 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
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	84 FN 95.00	170 FN+ 16.00	87 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		130 VF+ 52.00	69 VF+ 39.00	92 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	85 FN 95.00	171 FN+ 16.00	88 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		131 VF+ 52.00	70 VF+ 39.00	93 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	86 FN 95.00	172 FN+ 16.00	89 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		132 VF+ 52.00	71 VF+ 39.00	94 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	87 FN 95.00	173 FN+ 16.00	90 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		133 VF+ 52.00	72 VF+ 39.00	95 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	88 FN 95.00	174 FN+ 16.00	91 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		134 VF+ 52.00	73 VF+ 39.00	96 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	89 FN 95.00	175 FN+ 16.00	92 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		135 VF+ 52.00	74 VF+ 39.00	97 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	90 FN 95.00	176 FN+ 16.00	93 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		136 VF+ 52.00	75 VF+ 39.00	98 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	
	91 FN 95.00	177 FN+ 16.00	94 FN 3.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00	Annual 7 FN/VF 47.00		137 VF+ 52.00	76 VF+ 39.00	99 NM (Double Cover) 48.00	

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Dateline: G... BY FRED HEMBECK

THE SAVAGE DRAGON? CHICAGO'S GREATEST--AND GREENEST--COP, AND MY PERSONAL ALL-TIME FAVORITE IMAGE CHARACTER? WOW! IT'S A TREMENDOUS THRILL TO FINALLY MEET YOU!

Uh huh. THE FEELING'S MUTUAL, I SUPPOSE, FRANK.



FRED. THOUGH FRANKLY, I'M A LITTLE IN AWE OF WHAT YOUR CREATOR, ERIC LARSEN, HAS ACHIEVED. HE DREAMT YOU UP WHEN HE WAS A KID, AND, TO DATE, HE'S WRITTEN, PENCILLED, AND INKED MORE THAN 60 ISSUES OF YOUR ADVENTURES, ALL FEATURING HIS REFRESHINGLY IDIOSYNCRATIC TAKE ON COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTING ANTICS!

ERIK.



'KAY. AND MY GOSH--THE NEVER-ENDING STREAM OF CHARACTERS THAT FLOW OUT OF HIS PEN IS STUNNING! FREAK FORCE, CYBERFACE, KILL-CAT, BUBBLE BOY--AND HOW ABOUT THE LOVELY LADIES? RAPTURE, SHE-DRAGON, SMASHER, TO NAME BUT A FEW! WHY, IF YOUR BOOK WAS A PUBLIC BROADCASTING STATION, YOU'D NO DOUBT BE FUNDED BY AN OVERENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS! WOO WOO!

PLEASE. A LITTLE RESPECT.



Oh, RIGHT--THE WEDDING. THE ONE WHERE YOUR NEWLY WED BRIDE, JENNIFER MURPHY, WAS, UH, KILLED BY OVERLORD. OOPS. SORRY FOR BEING SO INSENSITIVE--MY CONDOLENCES.

IT'S... HONK... ALL RIGHT, MAN.

...ALTHOUGH WE READERS ALONE REALIZE IT WAS ACTUALLY THE CHAMELEON-LIKE BADDIE, IMPOSTER, WHO TOOK THE FATAL BLAST, WHILE THE REAL SMASHER IS BEING HELD IN STASIS BY THE COVENANT OF THE SWORD...



I SUPPOSE I COULD TELL DRAGON, BUT THAT'D PROBABLY RUIN A LOT OF WHAT ERIC--I MEAN, ERIC--HAS PLANNED. SURE, IT'D LIFT A HEAVY BURDEN OFF A FIN-HEAD'S HEART, BUT IT'D CERTAINLY MESS UP A LOTTA READING ENJOYMENT FOR ME. GEE WHIZ, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HELLO? MR. INTERVIEWER, SIR--ARE YOU NAPPING? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?



uh, NOTHING THAT WON'T KEEP. LET ME JUST SAY AGAIN HOW SADDENED I WAS ABOUT YOUR SPOILED NUPTIALS. I SENSED YOU WERE A TAD BIT DOWN WHEN YOU ARRIVED, DRAGGY, AND NOW I KNOW WHY.

IT'S NOT JUST THAT--THOUGH, LORD KNOWS, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH. IT'S THIS WHOLE THING WITH DC COMICS.

DON'T CALL ME "DRAGGY" AGAIN, EVER.



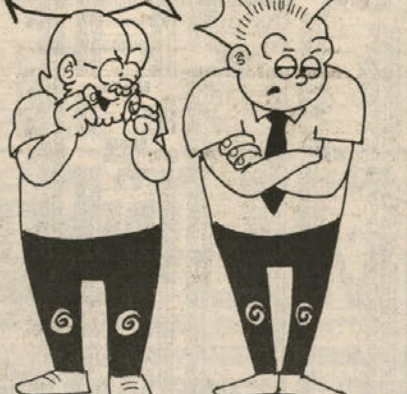
YOU'RE UPSET WITH 'EM TOO? I KNOW YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF YOUR LATE WIFE'S YOUNG DAUGHTER, ANGEL--DON'T TELL ME YOU READ THAT ELSEWORLDS STORY ON THE INTERNET AND MISTAKENLY PUT HER IN THE MICRO-WAVE OVEN?!

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT--WHO'D BE THAT DUMB? IT'S THIS WHOLE CROSSOVER SITUATION I'VE BEEN TRYING TO WORK OUT WITH THEM.



Oh YEAH--YOU AND SUPERMAN! THAT SURE SOUNDS LIKE IT'D BE A HOOT--I HOPE THERE'S NO PROBLEM?!

NO, THAT PROJECT IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY. THE TROUBLE IS, THOUGH, MEETING THE MAN OF STEEL WASN'T ACTUALLY MY FIRST CHOICE.



IT WASN'T?

Uh uh. MY INITIAL PROPOSAL HAD ME PARTICIPATING IN AN ADVENTUROUS EXPLOIT WITH PARADISE ISLAND'S GIFT TO MAN'S WORLD, WONDER WOMAN.



WOW!! THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT'D BE GREAT! AFTER ALL, ERIC'S LOOK INTO THE MYTHOLOGICAL PANTHEON OF GODS IN YOUR TITLE HAS MADE FOR SOME VERY ENTERTAINING READING--WHAT WENT WRONG?

WHO KNOWS? LARSEN TURNED IN SOME SAMPLES OF HIS VERSION OF THE AMAZON PRINCESS, AND DC IMMEDIATELY DEEP-SIXED THE IDEA.

IN FACT, SHE'S NEARBY--DIANA, WOULD YOU COME HERE FOR A MOMENT?



WHAT? WHAT??

I DON'T GET IT?!



DRAGON, MY GUESS IS THAT THE FOLKS AT DC WERE CONCERNED BECAUSE THEY PROBABLY EXPECTED THEIR GIRL TO HAVE A SPEAKING PART?!

...GRRR HRRRAH!!



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ORIGINAL COMIC ART SHOW Exhibition/Contest Rules

1. All participants who wish to have their works entered must pay a five dollar (\$5) entry fee for each piece that they enter. All artwork must be of the comic book/fantasy genre, and must measure 18" by 24" or smaller. All pieces will be returned after the exhibition.

2. There will be three different categories of artwork:

- Color (full color finished piece)
- Pen and Ink
- Pencil

3. Any entrant may at any time during the course of the exhibition, sell their artwork to any interested party. The entrant then receives the total proceeds from the sale. No commission or fee is charged for the sale to either the selling, or purchasing, party.

***ARTWORK MUST STAY ON EXHIBITION THROUGHOUT THE HOURS OF THE SHOW.**

4. A total of seventy-five (75) pieces of original art will be selected to be exhibited: twenty-five (25) from each category. This number is subject to change depending upon the total number of pieces entered in each of the three categories. On the morning of the last day of the exhibition (Sunday, November 14th, 1999), the selection of the winner in each category shall be made.

5. A panel of judges shall be the sole determinants for the winner in each category.

6. The winning piece in each category shall then be tendered an offer in accordance with the following schedule:

- Color (full color finished piece): \$20,000
- Pen and Ink : \$7,500
- Pencil: \$2,500

**DEADLINE:
NOV. 1st**

7. The winner has the option of accepting or rejecting the offer. Should the offer be accepted, the winner then sells the artwork to the buyer and thereby relinquishes any and all rights, present and future, to the artwork, including but not limited to publishing, reproduction, display, and selling thereof. The purchaser of the artwork thereby becomes the sole owner, and gains as a result all pertinent rights and privileges associated with the artwork.

8. The winners in each category shall be paid within one week of the acceptance of their respective offers.

9. Neither Michael Carbonaro nor Big Apple Conventions shall be held liable for any results arising either directly or indirectly as a consequence of this convention or exhibition. Taxes due are the sole responsibility of the winners. No warranties or remedies of any kind are expressed or implied. All entrants agree to abide by the rules herein contained.

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Mark Gruenwald Memorial Create a Comic Contest '99

The rules are simple. Here they are: First, there is NO ENTRY FEE. Submit any original, previously unpublished work, in comic book format. We look at 'em.

We pick the best one.

We announce the winner at our November 12- 14 show.

No age limits, but we need parents' OK for minors.

We pay the winner \$500. Second place gets \$300. Third place gets \$200.

If a team created a winning book, they split the prize.

That's because we're generous, but not *that* generous.

We publish the winning book (color cover, b/w interior).

We distribute the winning book for sale.

The winner gets half the profits from all sales of the book.

The other half of the profits goes into the next contest.

All entries become the property of Big Apple Conventions.

Big Apple Conventions is not responsible for anything that may happen to any of the artworks, or anything else...

Hey, everyone else gets to put in a legal disclaimer. Why not us?

The decision of the judge(s) is final. No whining allowed.

If you are an established artist like Stan Lee, or Joe Kubert, STOP...

You can't join. It would not be fair. Besides, you've got yours already.

For everyone else, keep reading...

Wanna join? Not sure? Our phone number is: 718-326-2713 for more details.

THIS CONTEST IS NOT FOR PROFIT. ALL PROCEEDS ARE 50% TOWARD THE CONTEST WINNERS, 40% FOR CONTINUATION OF CONTEST AND 10% TOWARDS THE COMIC BOOK LEGAL DEFENSE FUND.

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The winner of our 46th Mystery Contest from CBG #1344 is Raoul H. Torrez, Santa Fe, N.M. Raoul correctly identified the panel as coming from *Duckman* #2 (Dec. 94) and will receive a copy of *Comic-Book Superstars*. Keep those entries coming and keep watching for more contests in our pages.

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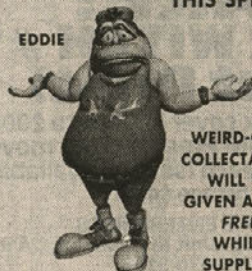
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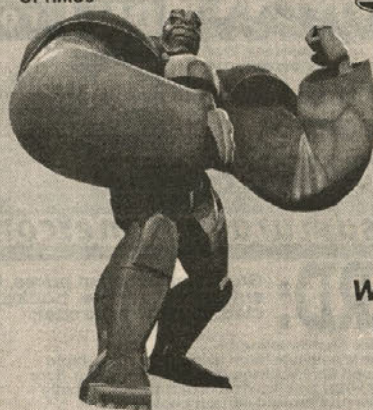
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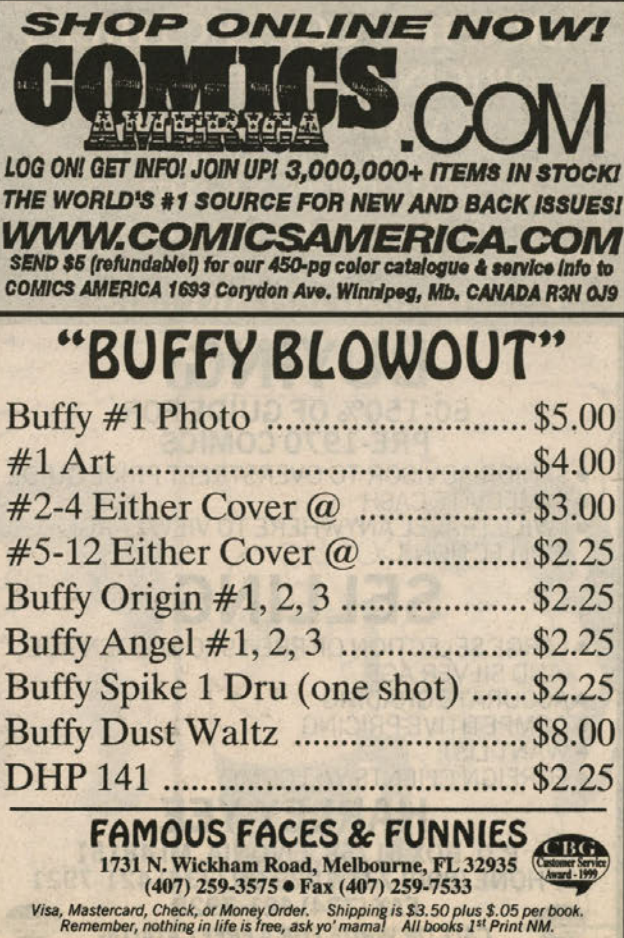
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ALABAMA

Oct 14-17 AL, Birmingham. Comic Books, Sports Cards, NASCAR, Coins, Toys & Stamps Show, Riverchase Galleria. SH: mall hrs., T: 85, F: \$165. Bases Loaded Promos, Inc., 295 Bryan Rd., McMinnville, TN 37110. PH: 931-939-3063 or 256-722-2738.

ARIZONA

Oct 17 AZ, Phoenix. Collectors Marketplace 99, Day's Inn. 2420 W. Thomas, SH: 9am-5pm, T: 50, F: \$50, A: \$2, \$50 under 12. Lost Duchman Comics, Blake or James, 5811 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85014. PH: 602-604-9249.

CALIFORNIA

Oct 8-10 CA, Fresno. Comic Book & Toy Fest, Manchester Center. Corner of Blackstone & Shields Ave., just off Hwy. 41, SH: Fri. 10am-9pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 30-8, F: \$45, A: free. Cool Stuff Shows, 2330 W. Monte Vista, Visalia, CA 93277. PH: 559-307-4036 or 209-668-0821.

Oct 17 CA, Los Angeles. Comic Book & Science Fiction Convention, Shrine Auditorium Expo Ctr. 700 W. 32nd St., SH: 10am-5pm, A: \$5. Bruce Schwartz, 2319-A West Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91506. PH: 818-954-8432.

Oct 22-24 CA, Visalia. Comic Book & Toy Fest, Mall. Corner of Mooney Blvd. & Walnut Ave., SH: Fri. 10am-9pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 20-8, F: \$75, A: free. Cool Stuff Shows, 2330 W. Monte Vista, Visalia, CA 93277. PH: 559-307-4036.

Oct 30 CA, Santa Clara. Collector Quest Show, Marriott. SH: 11am-4pm, T: 100, A: \$5, \$3. children. PH: 831-454-1857.

CONNECTICUT

Oct 24 CT, East Hartford. Comic Book Convention, Elks Hall. 148 Robert St. (Exit 58 off of I-84), SH: 11am-5pm, T: 35, F: \$45, A: \$99. The Bookie, Hal Kinney, 206 Burnside Ave., E. Hartford, CT 06108. PH: 860-289-1208.

FLORIDA

Oct 15-17 FL, Ft. Walton Beach. Comic Books, Beanie Babies, BB Card & Coll. Show, Santa Rosa Mall. Mary Esther Blvd. & Page Bacon Rd., T: 45, A: free. Robert Chambliss, PO Box 37272, Tallahassee, FL 32315. PH: 904-442-6682.

GEORGIA

Oct 22-24 GA, Valdosta. Comic Books, Beanie Babies, BB Card & Coll. Show, Mall. 1700 Norman Dr., T: 45, A: free. Robert Chambliss, PO Box 37272, Tallahassee, FL 32315. PH: 904-442-6682.

Nov 5-7 GA, Waycross. Comic Books, Beanie Babies, BB Card & Coll. Show, Hatcher Point Mall. US Hwy. 1, T: 45, A: free. Robert Chambliss, PO Box 37272, Tallahassee, FL 32315. PH: 904-442-6682.

ILLINOIS

Oct 9 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book, Sports, Toys, NASCAR & Beanie Show, Civic Ctr. La Grange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 85-6, F: \$30, A: \$1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

Oct 23 IL, Bridgeview. Comic Book & Toy Show, Oremus Ctr. 79th & Oketo (2 blks. W. of Harlem Ave.), SH: 10am-3pm, T: 8, F: \$25, A: \$1. Mike, PH: 708-788-7276 or Jim, PH: 815-886-8925.

Oct 24 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book, Sports, Toys, NASCAR & Beanie Show, Civic Ctr. La Grange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 85-6, F: \$30, A: \$1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

INDIANA

Oct 9-10 IN, South Bend. Comic Book & Collectible Hobby Show, Scottsdale Mall. 1290 E. Ireland Rd., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60, F: \$90, A: free. Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Oct 16-17 IN, Merrillville. Comic Book & Collectible Hobby Show, Century Mall. US 30 at Broadway, SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60, F: \$90, A: free. Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Find the shows in your area here!

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Oct 22-24 IN, Hammond. Comic Book & Collectible Hobby Show, Woodmar Mall. Indianapolis Blvd. at 165th St., SH: Fri. 10am-9pm, Sat. 10am-5:30pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60, F: \$90, A: free. Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Oct 30-31 IN, Goshen. Comics & Collectible Hobby Show, Inn. US 33 E., SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 26, F: \$40, A: free. Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

KANSAS

Oct 23-24 KS, Kansas City. Comic Con, Reardon Civic Ctr. 500 Minnesota Ave., SH: Sat. & Sun 10am-4pm, T: 110, F: \$125, A: \$5. Bud Bortner, 6236 W. 27th St., Louisburg, KS 66053. PH: 913-837-3335.

LOUISIANA

Oct 17 LA, Thibodaux. 2nd Annual Show, Howard Johnson Hotel, Rienz Room. 201 N. Canal Blvd., SH: 10am-5pm, T: 37-6, F: \$45-\$60, A: \$150. Ray Guidry, 614 W. 3rd St., Thibodaux, LA 70301. PH: 504-447-4136 or 225-272-0006.

MARYLAND

Oct 9 MD, Baltimore. Greater Baltimore Collectors Mart XXIX, Pikesville Armory. 610 Reisterstown Rd., (I-695, Exit 20), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 30, A: \$4. Annapolis Marketing, Inc., 6506 Pyle Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817. PH/FAX: 301-320-6974.

Oct 17 MD, Glen Burnie. Comic Book, Non-Sports Card & Action Figure Show, Holiday Inn. Glen Burnie, Exit 3A off I-695, SH: 11am-4pm, T: 25, F: \$40, A: \$2, under 7 free. Fred Edson, PH: 410-783-1157.

MASSACHUSETTS

Oct 24 MA, Boston. Comic Book & Toy Spectacular, Radisson Hotel. Formerly Howard Johnson 57, 200 Stuart St., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 120-8, F: \$85, A: \$5. Primate Promos, David Cummings, PH: 978-388-5550.

MISSOURI

Oct 17 MO, Sunset Hills-St. Louis. More Fun Fall 99 Comic Book Show, Holiday Inn SW. Watson Rd. & Lindbergh Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, A: \$3, 10 & under free. Jerry Stephan, PO Box 28726, St. Louis, MO 63146. PH: 314-647-1050.

NEBRASKA

Oct 24 NE, Omaha. Monthly Comic Books, Coins, Ballcards, NASCAR & Automobile Collectibles Show, Holiday Inn. Ford Hall, 1-80 & 72nd St., T: 100, F: \$30, A: free. Ed Bishop, 2016 E. 19th, Fremont, NE 68025. PH: 402-721-7364.

NEW JERSEY

Oct 10 NJ, Elmwood Park. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, American Legion Post 147. 1 Legion Place (off Market St.), SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-6, A: \$1. Gary Sipes, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 796-9717 day of show.

Oct 10 NJ, Clifton. Comic Book Expo, Community Recreation Ctr. 1232 Main Ave. (Rt. 46 to Piaget Ave. to Main Ave.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$45, A: free. J. Paul, 10 Cross St., Montclair, NJ 07042. PH: 973-783-0608.

Oct 15-17 NJ, Freehold. Triple Play Comic Book, Sports Card, Memorabilia & Collectible Toy Show, Raceway Mall. 3710 Rt. 9, SH: mall hrs., T: 100-8, F: \$190, for 1, \$360, for 2, \$500, for 3, A: free. Ferdinand Parascandolo, 482 Retford Ave., St. NY 10306. PH: 718-667-9588 or 967-9172.

Oct 15-16 NJ, Pennsauken. Philly Comic Book & Non-Sports Card Show, South Jersey Expo Ctr. Rts. 73 & 130, SH: Fri. 12noon-6pm, Sat. 10am-4pm, T: 140, A: \$5, under 12 free. Frank Reigher, 10220 Calera Rd., Phila. PA 19114. PH: 215-637-5744.

Oct 17 NJ, Garfield. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys Club. 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 70, A: \$1. Gary Sipes, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Oct 17 NJ, Bordentown. Comic Book, Toys & Sports Card Show, Armory. Rt. 206 off Exit 7 of NJ Tpke., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, A: \$2. EMCEE Conventions, PO Box 151, Hightstown, NJ 08520. PH: 609-448-7585.

Oct 24 NJ, Clifton. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show. 802 Clifton Ave. (entrance on Colfax Ave.), SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-8, A: \$1. Gary Sipes, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 779-9332 day of show.

Oct 24 NJ, Wayne. Comic Book Expo, Holiday Inn. Rt. 46 Service Rd. (off of Rt. 23 S. to Rt. 46 Service Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-8, F: \$60, A: \$2, 07042. PH: 973-783-0608.

Oct 31 NJ, Garfield. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show,

Boys Club. 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 70, A: \$1. Gary Sipes, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Nov 6-7 NJ, Ocean Township. Comic Book, Sports Card, Toy & Coll. Show, Seaview Square Mall. Rts. 35 & 66, Pky. Exit 102 S. to 100A N. to Rt. 66 E., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60-8, A: free. Collectors Showcase, Sandy Grecco, PO Box 189, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. PH: 732-291-1632.

NEW YORK

Oct 8 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church. 20th Ave. at Bayridge Pky. (same as 75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40, for 1, \$75, for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Oct 9-10 NY, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20, for 1 day, \$30, for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.

Oct 10 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Book, Sports Card & Beanie Babies Show, Golden Gate Inn. Knapp St. & Shore Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 35-8, F: \$45, A: free. Mark Dillon, PH: 718-266-1625.

Oct 16-17 NY, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20, for 1 day, \$30, for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.

Oct 16 NY, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Show, Atlas Mart Indoor Flea Market. 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul, PH: 516-289-7398.

Oct 16-17 NY, Yonkers. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Mall at Cross County. 750 Central Ave., SH: 10am-6pm, T: 45-8, F: \$125, A: free. Steve Tepper, 1824 Merrick Rd., Merrick, NY 11566. PH: 718-894-5310 or 716-379-8300.

Oct 16-17 NY, Massapequa. Comic Book, Sports Card & Memorabilia Show, Sunrise Mall. Sunrise Hwy., SH: Sat. 10am-9:30pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 90-8, F: \$115, for 1, \$200, for 2, \$295, for 3, \$395, for 4, A: free. Woodwill, Donna Giordanela, PO Box 5186, Hauppauge, NY 11788. PH: 516-562-6137.

Oct 17 NY, Ozone Park. Comic Book, Sports Card, Coin & Beanie Baby Show & AUCTION, Jewish Ctr. 107-01 Crossbay Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 36, F: \$37.50 for 1, \$65, for 2, A: \$1. Joseph Carvana, 114-32 150 Ave., S. Ozone Park, NY 11420. PH: 718-845-7240 or 848-1795.

Oct 17 NY, Brooklyn. Sun. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel of Flatlands. 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50-8, F: \$40, for 1, \$75, for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Oct 22 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church. 20th Ave. at Bayridge Pky. (same as 75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40, for 1, \$75, for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Oct 23-24 NY, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20, for 1 day, \$30, for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.

Oct 24 NY, Brooklyn. Comic Book, Sports Card & Beanie Babies Show, Golden Gate Inn. Knapp St. & Shore Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 35-8, F: \$45, A: free. Mark Dillon, PH: 718-266-1625.

Oct 30-31 NY, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20, for 1 day, \$30, for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.

Oct 30 NY, New York City. Comic Book, Sports Card & Memorabilia Show, St. Illuminators Cathedral. 221 E. 27th St. (bet. 2nd & 3rd Ave.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 25-8, F: \$40, A: \$1. Edmond Elmokian, 218 Oakland Ave., West Hempstead, NY 11552. PH: 516-564-9319.

Oct 31 NY, Syracuse. Collectorfest, State Fairgrounds, Horticultural Bldg. State Fair Blvd., Rt. 690, Exit 7, enter Gate 2, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 200, A: \$3, under 10 free. Central NY Promos, Lyn Lake, 35 Hubbard St. Apt. 1, Cortland, NY 13045. PH: 607-753-8580.

Oct 31 NY, Brooklyn. Sun. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel of Flatlands. 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50-8, F: \$40, for 1, \$75, for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

Nov 6 NY, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Show, Atlas Mart Indoor Flea Market. 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul, PH: 516-289-7398.

NORTH CAROLINA

Oct 10 NC, Asheville. Comic Book Show, Comfort Suites Hotel. Exit 2

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If a state is not listed in this issue's calendar, it is because we received no show listings for that state for this time period.

If you are planning to attend a show some distance from your home, we advise you to call the show's promoter for any last-minute changes and information.

off I-26, SH: 10am-5pm, F: sold out, A: free. D.W. Howard, 697 Brevard Rd., Asheville, NC 28806. PH: 828-665-2800.

Oct 16 NC, Charlotte. Carolina Con 99 Comic Book Convention, Ramada Inn. Interstate 77 (Exit 7), SH: 10am-4pm, F: sold out, A: free. PH: 704-424-3453.

OHIO

Oct 17 OH, Canton. Comic Con, Sheraton Inn (Belden Village). I-77, Exit 109, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 28-8, F: \$50, A: \$2, 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

Oct 24 OH, Ashtabula. Comic Book, Toy & Collectables Show, Progress Center. 3116 N. Bend Rd., SH: 10am-3pm, A: \$2, under 12 free. Roger or Mandi, PH: 440-224-2327.

Oct 29-31 OH, St. Clairsville. Comic Book, Sport Cards, NASCAR & Beanie Show, Ohio Valley Mall. Banfield, Mall Rd., SH: mall hrs., T: 45, A: free. Tom Vleneck, PO Box 284, Rices Landing, PA 15357. PH: 724-592-5038.

PENNSYLVANIA

Oct 22-24 PA, Stroudsburg. Comic Book, Toys & Sport Collectibles Show, Stroud Mall. Rt. 611, T: 6' & 8', F: \$80-\$100. Two Brothers Collectibles, PH: 570-603-1208.

TENNESSEE

Oct 23-24 TN, Kingsport. Comic Book, Cards, Racing & Toy Show, Civic Auditorium. 1550 Fort Henry Dr., SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-5pm, T: 60, F: \$65, A: \$1. Bill Henderson, 346 Fuller Estate Cir., Morristown, TN 37813. PH: 423-581-8386 or 581-3041.

TEXAS

Oct 16-17 TX, Austin. Fat Cat Productions Comic Book & Toy Collectors Super Show, Palmer Auditorium, Lower Level, S. 1st & Riverside. SH: Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 200, A: \$6, for both days, children free. Roger Quijano, PH: 281-293-8663 or 738-8620.

Oct 23-24 TX, Plano. Sci-Fi Expo & Toy Show, Convention Center. 2000 E. Spring Creek Pky., T: 275. Ben Stevens, PO Box 941111, Plano, TX 75094. PH: 972-578-0213.

Oct 29-31 TX, Lubbock. HubCon III, Holiday Inn, Lubbock Plaza. 3201 Loop 289 S., F: \$30, for weekend before Sep 1, \$35, thereafter. Hub-Con Entertainment, PO Box 94353, Lubbock, TX 79493. PH: 806-789-1501.

VIRGINIA

Oct 9-10 VA, Virginia Beach. Antique & Collectible Toy Show, Pavilion. SH: Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 11am-3pm, T: 125, A: \$4, \$1, ages 6-12. Southeastern Collectible Expo, 1819 Peeler Rd., Vale, NC 28168. PH: 704-276-1670.

Oct 10 VA, Tysons Corner-McLean. Monthly Comic Book, Magic, Toy & Trading Card Show, Tysons Corner Westpark Hotel. 8401 Westpark Dr., take Exit 10 (Rt. 7 W.) off I-495 (Washington, DC area), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 90-6, F: \$65, for 1st, \$60, for 2nd, \$55, ea. add'l, A: \$2, under 5 free. Capital Associates, Inc., Jeffrey Rocen, 7952 Arden Ct., Vienna, VA 22027. PH: 703-912-1993.

Oct 16-17 VA, Virginia Beach. Collectors Mart, Pembroke Mall. Intersection of Independence & VA Beach Blvds., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12:30pm-5:30pm, T: 85-8, F: \$120-\$140, A: free. Larry Webb, 4406 Holland Rd., VA Beach, VA 23452. PH: 757-486-0215.

Oct 17 VA, Richmond. Fall Extravaganza, Holiday Inn. Belts Rd., Exit 69 off of I-95, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$45, A: \$2. Chesterfield Comic Collectors, Guy Rose, 6413 Old Bern Rd., Chesterfield, VA 23834. PH: 804-796-4903 or 274-7388.

WEST VIRGINIA

Oct 10 WV, Charleston. Comic Con, South Charleston Community Ctr. 601 Jefferson Rd. (I-64, Exit 54), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 28-6, F: \$45, A: \$2, 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

PUBLISHER'S

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The Collectors Showcase section is also very visible in each issue because it always begins right after the centerspread position.

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precisely the feeling I had as a kid when I got a haircut. The day's punchline finishes the comedy with a love pat, when the kid is told, "You'll always be beautiful to me."

In short, *Rose Is Rose* is a daily demonstration of the Art (with a capital A) of Cartooning: the masterful blending of words and pictures to achieve a meaning that neither is capable of without the other.

This is the third collection of Brady's strips from Andrews McMeel and, as an anniversary collection, it offers an eight-page section that looks back over the 15 years of the strip's run. We see how Rose and her husband Jimbo looked when Brady first proposed the strip (alarmingly different from how they appeared when the strip actually began on April 16, 1984), and we witness the first time their son, Pasquale, spoke recognizable English instead of phonetic baby gibberish (Aug. 9, 1991).

The baby talk was Brady's gimmick for seven years: Pasquale would say something phonetically, and his mother would then

translate for us. Nowadays, however, the puzzle is in the pictures, as I said.

The retrospective section also includes a sample of Brady's *Dreamer*, a strip that he proposed before *Rose* but that wasn't purchased by any syndicate. In *Dreamer*, we can see the seeds of Brady's visual invention blossoming.

For more about Brady's career (his brief foray into underground cartooning, for instance), you might consult *Cartoonist PROfiles* #121 (March 1999) in which my interview with him is reported. Subscriptions to this quarterly journal about the profession of cartoonist are \$35 a year, P.O. Box 325, Fairfield, CT 06430. Individual copies of the journal are \$10 each.

Even if you don't usually buy collections of newspaper comic strips, you should own *Rose Is Rose*: It will show you how cartooning can be fine art. And its humor will warm you as you witness the artistry. You can read it in an hour, but it's better if you read only a few pages a day to prolong the pleas-

ure. From Andrews McMeel, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111, 128 black-and-white 9x9" pages, \$9.95.

• At the same source and price, we have *Sunshine and Shadow*, the most recent compilation of Lynn Johnston's *For Better or for Worse*. This 128-page black-and-white volume embraces the sequence of strips that record the death of Elly's mother and is dedicated to Johnston's mother, Ursula Marian Ridgway, who died of cancer after a three-year struggle. "She left us," Johnston writes, "with the knowledge that such difficult times can be endured with courage, optimism, faith, and a rich sense of humor." These qualities are amply reflected in the strip, as Elly and her family watch Grandma confront her illness.

Otherwise, the book's strips regale us with the adventures of the rest of the family — Michael's love life in college and Elizabeth's gradual transformation into young adult as well as Grandpa's adjustment to single life after the death of his lifelong wife.

Incidentally, the 9x9" page dimensions of the Andrews McMeel books permit running three daily strips or a single Sunday strip to a page at a size that permits a respectable (if not respectful) display of the cartoonist's drawings. They're all 7.25" long, not the chintzy 6" that most newspapers deploy. You can see 'em.

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The Write Stuff

Kurt Busiek

Where will he be in 2009?

Busiek plans ahead

By Maggie Thompson

Kurt Busiek has worked as:

- a literary agent
- an editor
- a writer
- a sales manager
- a short-order fry cook ("That was in high school and after I stopped being the *Marvel Age* assistant editor and before I became a literary agent.")

When he was interviewed, he was preparing to go in for surgery in two days. His daughter, Sydney, had turned nine months old the day before. And he, himself, was about to turn 39 the following day. Or, as he put it, "I share a birthday with Lauren Bacall — though we were born a few years apart."

He was relaxed and affable, as the telephone interview started with his hearing the promotional copy that had indicated the course the discussion would take: "He's the favorite writer of the *CBG* Fan Awards two years in a row! He's a comics guru! He's the only major comics writer whose name begins and end with 'k.'"

He laughed. "Well," he said brightly, "there's always Keith Giffek."

Putting the topic of writer-artist Keith Giffek aside, Busiek noted (commenting on the background baby noises that had suddenly decreased in volume), "Sydney has padded off in chase of her mother. Right now, I'm in the living room. We live in a small enough house that Sydney is always no less than 20 feet away from one or the other of us."

Asked how his writing has changed since Sydney's birth, he responded, "It was already slow. I'd

like to do more overtly kids comics, since I'd like to read them to Sydney, when she's old enough to read them.

"My attitude toward my writing has changed enormously. I'm now considering where I will be in 10 years."

Prior to that point, family concerns had to some extent involved the dog. "Hector's figured out phone conversations to the point at which he knows that 'OK, bye' means we'll be free from the phone."

Sydney, who hasn't yet worked out such details, had arrived back in the room and expressed annoyance at the current state of things. "Sydney wants to be with her mom," Busiek said. "She never used to have separation anxiety; now she's old enough. We took her to the daycare center to see about that, and she happily played with toys and other kids. Now she wants Ann, and Daddy's not good enough." He made a series of splurchy noises, and Sydney giggled.

"She likes to have Daddy's head wedged into her belly," he said, laughing himself. "It makes her smile and giggle. It also helps that Ann's about seven feet away."

Long-term planning

Returning to the topic, he said that in earlier years, considerations of his long-term future hadn't really been a factor in his work.

"Before Sydney was conceived, my general rule of thumb was: If I enjoy a job I'm doing, I'm being paid well, and I'm paying the bills, then that was just fine.

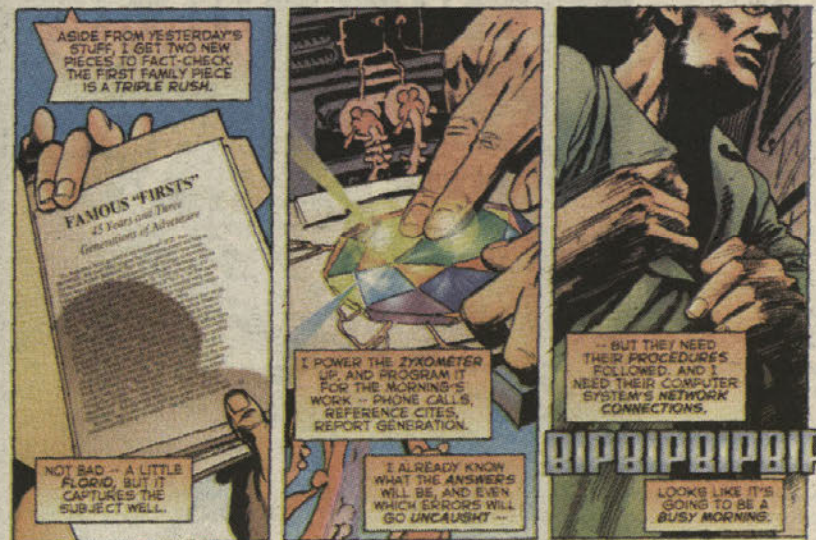
"The arrival of the news we were going to have a baby made

Busiek recommends

Asked what he would suggest as a starting point for someone new to his work, Kurt Busiek responded:

"The first *Astro City* trade paperback, which is about \$20." The title is Kurt Busiek's *Astro City: Life in the Big City*; it's \$19.95 in trade paperback, \$39.95 in hardcover.

"If they don't have \$20, I would suggest they root around for issue #1/2 of Kurt Busiek's *Astro City*. That would be the ideal: the starting point I like most." It also appears in the second trade paperback, Kurt Busiek's *Astro City: Confession*, \$19.95 in trade paperback. Once hooked, they can go on to Kurt Busiek's *Astro City: Family Album*, \$19.95 in trade paperback. All are currently available in comics shops via Diamond's Star System.



The Samaritan, *Astro City*'s most powerful hero, spends some time at his day job in Kurt Busiek's *Astro City* (Vol. 1) #1.

me instantly think that, 20 years from now, that growing belly is going to be in college. If I'm doing something like *Thunderbolts* (which I enjoy, which pleases the readers, and which is doing well — but which Marvel has no interest in collecting into a trade paperback), it's not going to be around 20 years from now, like *Astro City*.

"And I've got no say; it doesn't affect them to say, 'I wish you could reconsider.' With something like *The Liberty Project*, which came out in 1987 and 1988 from Eclipse, I could do a trade paperback. I'd have to track down the film and find a publisher. But those are obstacles, not locked doors. I could find someone interested in bringing it out, even if the film is destroyed or permanently lost.

"The one foreign license was in Spain: the publisher who also licensed Marvel and DC comics. I met with them in Madrid, and they offered to supply me with a copy of their *Liberty Project* film, and they've found at least half the series. We could stat the original lettering and paste it back in or something. At least, we'd have something to work with."

But with work for hire, the creator of the material has no say in getting a reprint, even if fans constantly request it.

Why, then, even do work for hire?

"One of the strongest reasons is

to work with someone else's character: Captain America, Bugs Bunny, Superman, The Executioner, Nancy Drew, or *Star Trek* — No matter which one you want to work on, there's only one way to do it — and that's work for hire."

Why work for hire

But there's another consideration, too. "Beyond the question of love of characters," Busiek said, "the major reason to work as a writer for a comic-book publisher or a book publisher is either because it will get you to a larger audience —"

He paused, adding, "That's been true for most of the time of my awareness of the comics industry. Creator-owned series were possible to do, but, if you're going to do *Sabre* for Eclipse, it won't reach the audience of *Fantastic Four*. The trade-off is you succeed on a smaller level."

He returned to the other reason to work for a large publisher. "It's to break in. It used to be that people wrote *Star Trek* novels to break in. Now you have more people trying to do more work for hire, now that it's a component of the best-seller list. I'd rather see the comics industry move toward the book paradigm, myself — instead of book publishing getting more like comics.

"But the comics industry has changed in the last decade. When



During his run on the latest *Avengers* series, Busiek has solidified the team's permanent line-up and added new members, including Justice (above) and Firestar from *The New Warriors*.

the Cliffhanger titles come out, there are four creator-owned series in the top 10. It's now possible to do a creator-owned comic book and have it be one of the best-sellers. On a more realistic basis, it can also be as healthy as other mid-range titles."

As for the impact on him of this state of the business: His creator-owned *Kurt Busiek's Astro City* sells better than Marvel's *Thunderbolts*.

"The economic benefits are suddenly in serious competition with work for hire. If there's interest in an *Astro City* toy line, not only do I decide whether there will be one, but I get the money. If there is a *Thunderbolts* toy line, Marvel decides, and I don't get money."

"We seem to be focusing on economics here, but the creator benefits are obvious."

On the other hand, are there advantages to having an editor? Busiek himself edited material for Marvel some years ago. He said, "It's nice to have someone look over your shoulder and suggest something — kind of like the way Stephen King's editor can make all the suggestions he wants, but Stephen King makes the decisions, because he owns the book."

"When I was a literary agent, the rule was: If you worked for a magazine, you used its style guides; if your work was a book, it used yours. In a magazine, you need to be consistent with the rest of the articles."

In a book, the odds are good that that book will revert to your control someday, and you can take it to another publisher, so you're writing to be consistent with your output, not the rest of their line. One of my clients always capitalized the word Hell, because, he said, it's a place. Place names get capitalized. This was his book, not their book. He got to win."

Ideas

When people used to ask Busiek where he got his ideas, he used to reply, "Poughkeepsie."

"But I had to change it, once Wendy and Richard [Pini] moved there."

To answer the question more seriously, he said, "In some ways, I think having all these ideas is what made me a writer in the first place. If I hadn't had these ideas, I wouldn't have gone into this field. Being a computer programmer is probably not for me."

"I want to tell stories to people, and ideas can come from anywhere."

For example?

"It can come from the real world."

"The spur for the story in *Astro City* Vol. 2 #2-3 was seeing Bridget Fonda on TV. Henry Fonda came along; everyone

said, 'Wow! great actor!' Peter and Jane came along; everyone said, 'They're getting jobs because they're Fonda kids.' Bridget came along; everyone said, 'Of course, she's a great actor; she's a Fonda.'

"What is it like to grow up in that context? If Bridget Fonda hadn't become an actor, it would never have triggered the speculation. But as soon as she did, the expectation was she'd fit in the family line."

"And what if the situation were to occur in a super-hero family? That was the start of the *Astro* storyline."

How about a different sort of example?

"It can come from extrapolating from specific information that exists."

"I did the Iron Man 'The 8th Day' crossover story for Marvel. The seeds of that were planted the first time I read the

first appearance of Juggernaut in *X-Men* #12." That was dated July 1965, but Busiek came across it a decade later. "The story involving the creation of Juggernaut featured an abandoned temple with a powerful jewel. I wondered at the time I read it: What's this temple doing there? Or is it there for a reason? Are there other temples with other gems?"

"Well, 24 years later, I got to say, 'You guys want to do a big Iron Man story? Here's a Juggernaut idea we could use!'"

"And there's plenty of other things. Anything can trigger a 'what if?' If you take that trigger and build it into something, that's where you get the idea."

Editors

Busiek worked as a comic-book editor — on Marvel's short-lived science-fiction *Open Space* anthology in 1989 and 1990. What's the difference between Kurt Busiek as an editor and the editors with whom Kurt Busiek has worked?

"As an editor," Busiek said, "I focused very much on the craft of comic-book scripting: I largely worked with writers who hadn't written comics — or hadn't written many of them. Most of my effort was to give them the tools to bring out their ideas best. I spent more time on technique, suggesting, 'You'll bring out the idea better if you do this,' then staying out of the way."

"Most of the editors I've dealt with deal with me on an 'idea' level; they trust my craft. Once we get the ideas straight, they don't have complaints on how I realize them. Most of the editorial conversations I have today are on the content of story, not its presentation."

He said he didn't really get objections from editors today. "I say, 'I was planning on doing this.'"

"They say, 'That sounds nice. Can we see thus-and-such an idea gets through?' Then we bat ideas back and forth."

When he's working on his creator-owned projects, he doesn't hear from the

Kurt Busiek's More than Five Tips for Would-Be Comics Writers

1. Write. You will learn more by writing stories than you will by reading books or attending classes on writing stories. John D. MacDonald said every beginning writer has a million bad words in him; after you've written a million, you'll be rid of them all.

2. Finish the story. Far too many writers get an idea, write a story, restart, polish, and never get to writing the end. If you're practicing, it doesn't really matter if the first act is bad. If you never get around to writing endings, you'll never get any practice at it.

3. Do things you don't know how to do. Artists who arrange never to draw feet because they don't know how won't be able to draw feet when they need to. You may polish your abilities in a very limited area, but you won't have the breadth of technique to do different stories, if you never do things you don't know how to do.

4. Conquer research. A writer has to do research. Few writers actually know everything, from current Moscow politics to the chemical composition of dynamite. But, if that's going to be in your story, you're going to have to be able to find out these things. You're going to have to know how to gain information to make your story work.

5. and 6. come together. A point to remember when you're breaking in: **Nobody should be expected to do you a favor.** If someone is going to buy a story from a new writer, it isn't because it fits the writer's needs; it fits the buyer's needs.

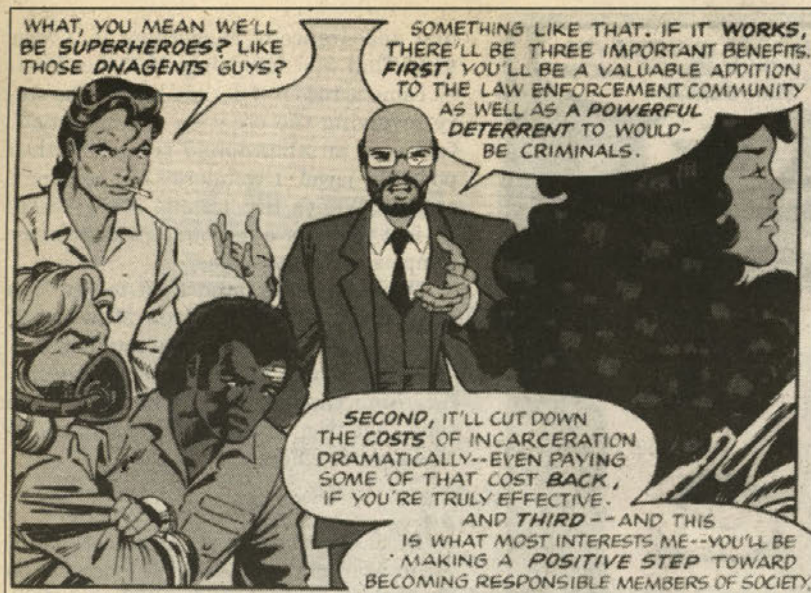
If you really, really want to fix all the mistakes in *X-Men* history, you probably won't get the chance. Marvel doesn't think they need to be fixed; if Marvel ever does think they need to be fixed, it'll hire someone established.

But, if Marvel needs back-up stories

in *Captain America*, it's an open door, even if it's not something you've always wanted to do. Editors are your customers, not your employers. You are selling them things; sell them things they want.

6. is a corollary: **Don't forget who you are.** If you work hard at filling someone else's needs, you could become good at writing something you don't enjoy writing. Tip #5 is a good way to get in — but look for the overlap between what you enjoy and what your customers need. If you spend all your time fitting someone else's need, you'll never get to do what you want to write. Try to do the best stuff you can in that overlap until things have changed and what they've come to want is simply stories by you.

7. What they said. This is how I can do way more tips than the other guys in this 'Write Stuff' series. Check out the previous four issues.



Years before he turned Marvel's villainous *Masters of Evil* into the "heroic" *Thunderbolts* (a scene with Mach 1, aka *The Beetle*, is shown at right), Busiek had another team of villains become reluctant heroes in *Eclipse's The Liberty Project* (left).

editor till the script is done. But he still confers with people like artist Brent Anderson or his friends on the phone or at home. "I sometimes do it internally, but it's faster when there's a sounding board. The very process of articulating an idea can expose its flaws."

Agents

Is it time to get more literary agents into the comics field? Asked that question a decade ago, Busiek had said no. At the time he'd said there was a standard contract for all but a very few — and all an agent could do is say, "That's the contract; take it or leave it."

In 1999, he said he doesn't still feel that way. "I can't imagine saying, 'Absolutely not,' even then."

"I think the purpose of an agent is twofold:

"#1: He knows the market. So, if Lawrence Watt-Evans wanted to write comics, he doesn't know the structure of the industry, where the best players are for what he might want to do.

"#2: He knows how to negotiate a deal. He'll have a familiarity with contracts and a negotiating ability that involves experience and a greater ease at saying, 'You should pay Fred more; he's worth it.'

"I was a pretty good agent, but I'm not confident in bargaining for myself and not comfortable saying, 'I think you should pay me more than that.'

"The rule of thumb when I was an agent was that a novelist didn't need an agent for a first novel, because he'd be giving up 10% to get what was the standard contract, anyway. It's not necessarily true. If the agent is better at placing the book, then he can do a better job for that first novel even if the contract terms aren't better, simply by putting it in the right hands.

"An agent is not a necessity in the comics industry but can be useful for the right people. For some projects yes; for some projects no. It depends on what position you're in and what knowledge you have."

Part of what agents can negotiate is

the matter of licensing. Busiek said, "When I was a kid, we had Pogo bath toys." The toys came with Biz, Comet, and Safeguard products from Procter & Gamble. "I thought they were great. I had an Albert plastic figure with moveable arms. At that age, it was a toy; at my age, it's a collectible. Licensed stuff can be cool.

"But I think it's dangerous to have licensed stuff be the point. If it's a way to spin off a popular series so you reach more people and delight fans by them giving more stuff to enjoy, great. But if you create a character to license it, the tail is wagging the dog. Don't put in cute robots because they're popular if they don't have anything to do with your story."

Delays

What should Busiek's fans' reactions be concerning the many delays Busiek has had in producing his own comics?

He replied, "I think they should think that's a very bad thing.

"When I was in high school, when I was in college, I could say confidently that on the third Thursday of the month, I knew what comics were going to be there.

"If my comic books aren't there when they're scheduled to be there, it's because we screwed up. I can trot out good-sounding excuses like, say, 'I was dying.'

"But the person standing in the comics shop wondering why the issue isn't there isn't going to care about that."

So is there a solution?

"Some things are inevitable and some things aren't. The way DC is handling *Cliffhanger* these days, they've realized these guys aren't going to produce on a monthly schedule. So DC schedules an issue when it's so close to being done, it won't miss the announced shipping date; they'll be there when they say they'll be there."

He contrasted the comics industry to the book-publishing industry. "When Thomas Harris comes out with *Hannibal*, the fans don't say, 'He's nine years late!' That's because the sequel to *Silence of the Lambs* didn't get announced till it was done.



"If you can't produce on a monthly schedule, don't solicit on monthly schedule. Either make your schedule or stop promising! The solicitation is a promise to retailers: Retailers are gauging their budgets to bring in and sell so many comic books, and you just wasted some of their money. The issue may come in later, but in the meantime, they could have ordered something else."

Addressing the specifics of his own scheduling, he continued, "When we first went on hiatus with *Astro City*, we knew it was going to be two weeks late, so we didn't solicit #7 (which would have been four weeks late), whereupon we took steps to see it shipped on time.

"And the next 11 issues shipped late. The first on-time issue was #18.

"A great deal was my fault: my health. It was still wrong. And we should take steps to fix the problem when we can. Once I recovered from my serious illness, we started soliciting bimonthly. We caught up — and we shipped the latest issue one week early!

"So, by changing the factors (I got my health back, and we didn't make promises we couldn't meet), we got back to a regular schedule we can count on to appear. If we screw up again, we'll find a way to fix it again.

"I'm delighted that fans have been so supportive that we came back selling even better. But, pleased and delighted as I am, I should never, ever, ever expect it or take it for granted. They shouldn't feel any loyalty to me."

But there are cases in which the creators don't even have that much control.

"*Avengers Forever* isn't being done on time, but that was because we were set up with a schedule we said from the outset that we couldn't meet. We told Marvel we needed a specific lead time: We could do 12 issues in 15 months.

"Marvel decided it wanted three issues out by the end of the calendar year. As a result, #12 will ship two months later than originally announced: exactly on the schedule Carlos had initially said he could meet. It's not Carlos' fault; he's been

drawing it till he drops. But he works at a particular speed and wasn't provided a schedule that accommodated that fact."

Plans

Looking ahead, Busiek commented on the terminology of the century's end.

"We know the new millennium really starts in 2001," he said, "though I can well see celebrating an odometer turnover.

"For that matter, any second is the start of a new millennium — but with 2000 and 2001, we get the benefit of celebrating twice. It's a make-up. I grew up in Lexington, Mass., and we had hordes of people in 1975 for the bicentennial of the Battle of Lexington and even more in 1976 — when they should have gone to Philadelphia."

As to the name of the next decade, he's even come up with an answer to that quandary. "It'll be a little too modern for the oughts, and the 2000s is too long to say. But say this out loud: 1998, 1999, 20 bucks. It's the bucks. And you can say the Y2k odometer is passing the buck. It works, right?"

He refused to discuss several of the plans he has in negotiations at the moment. "Nothing is announceable as yet.

"But I want to do more creator-owned projects, things that can last, that have a longer life. *Astro City: Life in the Big City* may be in fifth printing at this point. And, give it a few more years, and we'll sell more books than we did of the first issue of the comic book. I like that.

"When I was a kid and started reading Robert Heinlein novels that were written before I was born, I didn't have to root through back-issue bins of Robert Heinlein. I liked what I read and bought another. I think we're seeing more and more of that kind of thing in comics — and I'd like to see more and more of that kind of thing in my work.

"It's simply having the work available so new readers can buy it four years later, because they're interested. I find it baffling that that would be considered new or different."

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Dear Mr. Silver Age,

Kurt Busiek obviously has a great love and respect for Silver Age comics. But he's too young to have read them all as a young kid. When did he first discover Silver Age comics, and which stories are his favorites?

Alan C.
Astro City

Mr. Silver Age says: Those are excellent questions, Alan. As always around here when I don't know an answer (which happens often), I went running to the source. Kurt said he started reading comics in 1965, when he was 5. But, ironically, his parents wouldn't allow comics in their house, so he was stuck reading

Reprint Sources

Anxious to read these classics but can't find them? Sadly, Busiek is not quite the trivia geek Mark Waid is, so he doesn't have his own database of Marvel reprints I can handily ransack. But many Marvel titles are catalogued on the Web by Arthur Y. Lee, proprietor of www.math.ucla.edu/~alee/reprints.html. I love the Web. Amazingly enough, DP #99, Iron Man #17-19, and DD #25 have never been reprinted. Here are the rest:

- X-Men #37-39 were reprinted in X-Men #85-87, respectively.

- Tales of Suspense #57 was reprinted in Marvel Collectors' Item Classics #17 and Giant-Size Iron Man #1.

- Teen Titans #16 was reprinted in Brave and the Bold #116, minus that cool cover.

- Spider-Man #31-33 were reprinted in Marvel Tales #24-26, respectively, and in Marvel Masterworks #16.

- Strange Tales #130-141 were reprinted in Marvel Masterworks #23.

- Fantastic Four #41 and 42 were reprinted in Marvel's Greatest Comics #32, FF #43 was reprinted in FF Annual #9, and all three are in Marvel Masterworks #25.

- Avengers #59-60 were reprinted in Marvel Super Action #20-21, respectively, and the Avengers British Annual, while #60 also appeared in Marvel Treasury Edition #7.



What a surprise, the debut of Hawkeye in Tales of Suspense #57 made Busiek's list. Throw in the slinky, fur-wrapped Black Widow, and you've got a darn memorable story.

Kurt Busiek's Top 10

the classics, such as Asterix, Tintin, and Pogo. He also managed to read an occasional Sad Sack or Jimmy Olsen at a friend's house or at the barber shop (the unsung haven for many Silver Age fans).

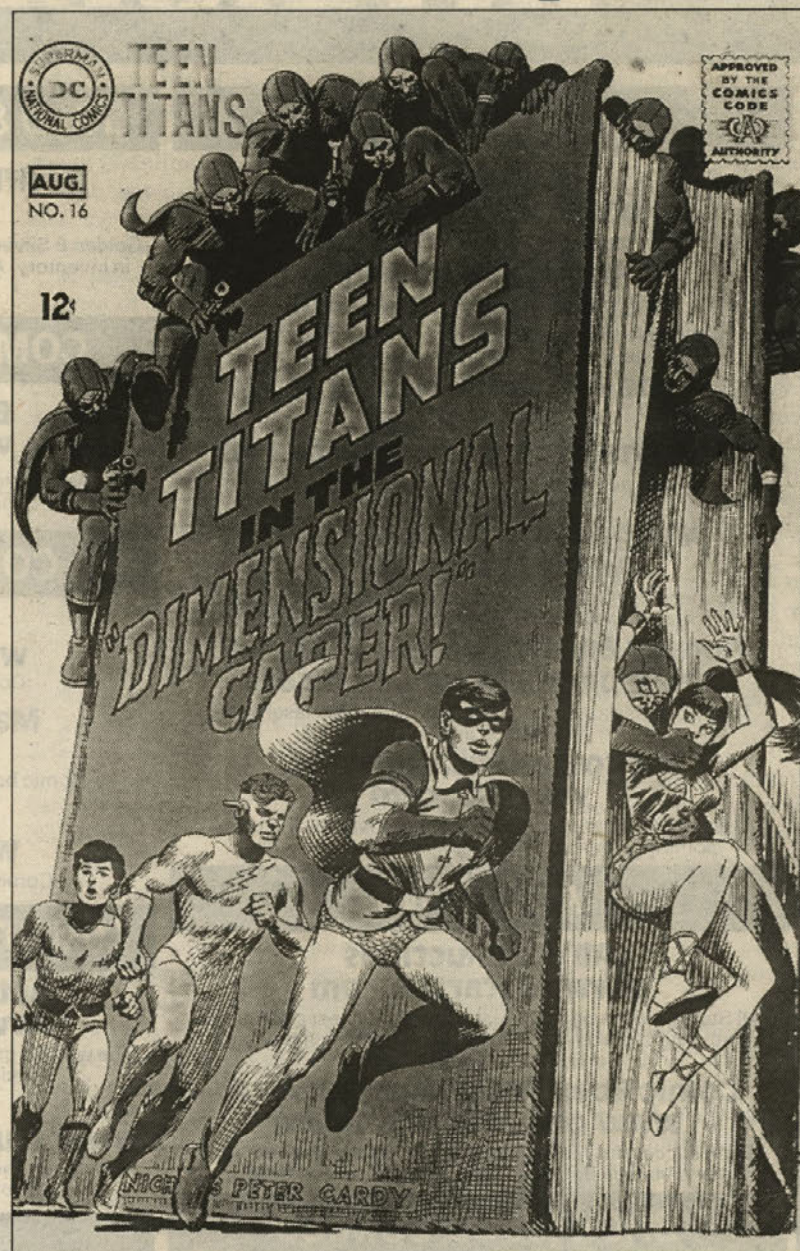
"I'd occasionally buy an Avengers or Batman or something from the local pharmacy, read it, and discard it before I got home," he confessed.

When he was 14 and "old enough to ignore my parents' rule against comics," he bought Daredevil #120 (Apr 75), the first part of a four-issue Hydra extravaganza. "Not only did I want to know what happened next, but the story referred to enough history that I wanted to know more about that, too."

By the time #121 came out, he'd found One Million Year Picnic in Cambridge, Mass., near his home and he was buying "all the Marvels I could find, both new comics and back issues." Which ones really hit home? Here are his Top 10 Favorites, in no particular order:

- The Factor Three story arc in X-Men #37-39 (Oct-Dec 67). Our mutant pals battled Factor Three, a secret mutant organization headed by Mutant-Master, Changeling, The Vanisher, The Blob, Mastermind, and Unus the Untouchable. "It was my introduction to The X-Men," Busiek said. "Five normal-seeming teenagers on an airplane were attacked by a flying saucer, and they jumped out! Only after they were in free-fall did we learn that this one fired eye-beams, that one had wings, and so on. I was hooked by page 5. The mixture of humor, character-oriented stories, and cheerful wonkiness never gave me reason to regret it."

- "Hawkeye, The Marksman!" in Tales of Suspense #57 (Sep 64). Busiek's favorite Marvel character, Hawkeye, made his debut battling Iron Man. "The story boasted gorgeous Don Heck art and a goofy romantic sub-plot: Tony Stark took Pepper out to Coney Island because he asked her out on Happy's behalf, but she thought he was asking for himself, so he took her someplace intentionally unromantic — how Silver Age can you get? They ran into Hawkeye, who had become a super-hero for all the wrong reasons and was immediately led astray by the sultry Black Widow.



One of Busiek's favorite comics covers, as with Waid, was done by Nick Cardy. This symbolic image speaks to lots of comics fans, who've been drawn into books themselves.

A great story on its own and the debut of much greatness to come."

- "The Dimensional Caper!" in Teen Titans #16 (Jul-Aug 68). Aliens invaded from another dimension, but that hardly mattered. It featured "Nick Cardy at one of his many bests and Bob Haney at his near-goofiest: 'Lookit me! I'm The Beast from Dimension X! I eat high schools ... alive!' There's wackier dialogue in later issues, like the sublime 'Skis of Death,' but this one has all-Cardy art and one of the best covers of all time."

- The introduction of Gar Logan in "The Beast Boy" in Doom Patrol #99 (Nov 65). "Gotta love

that Arnold Drake scripting and dialogue, and the Bruno Premiani art was distinctive and appropriate, too. This issue began the DP's best storyline, featuring Beast Boy and his wicked guardian, Nicholas Galtry — and leading to the Mento/Elasti-Girl marriage with Beast Boy as their surrogate son. Great stuff!"

- The introduction of Madame Masque and Midas in Iron Man #17-19 (Sep-Nov 69). This three-parter also featured the "death" of Tony Stark, his replacement by an LMD, and his heart being cured. "It just had everything that made Archie Goodwin's run superb: lots of character stuff, a fragile and effective romance, a flamboyant villain, and as much



Scarily enough, Busiek couldn't remember the issue number for Beast Boy's intro in **Doom Patrol** (#99) but he could recite Robotman's exact dialogue upon meeting Gar.

emphasis on Tony as on Iron Man. There should be a book collection of his entire run."

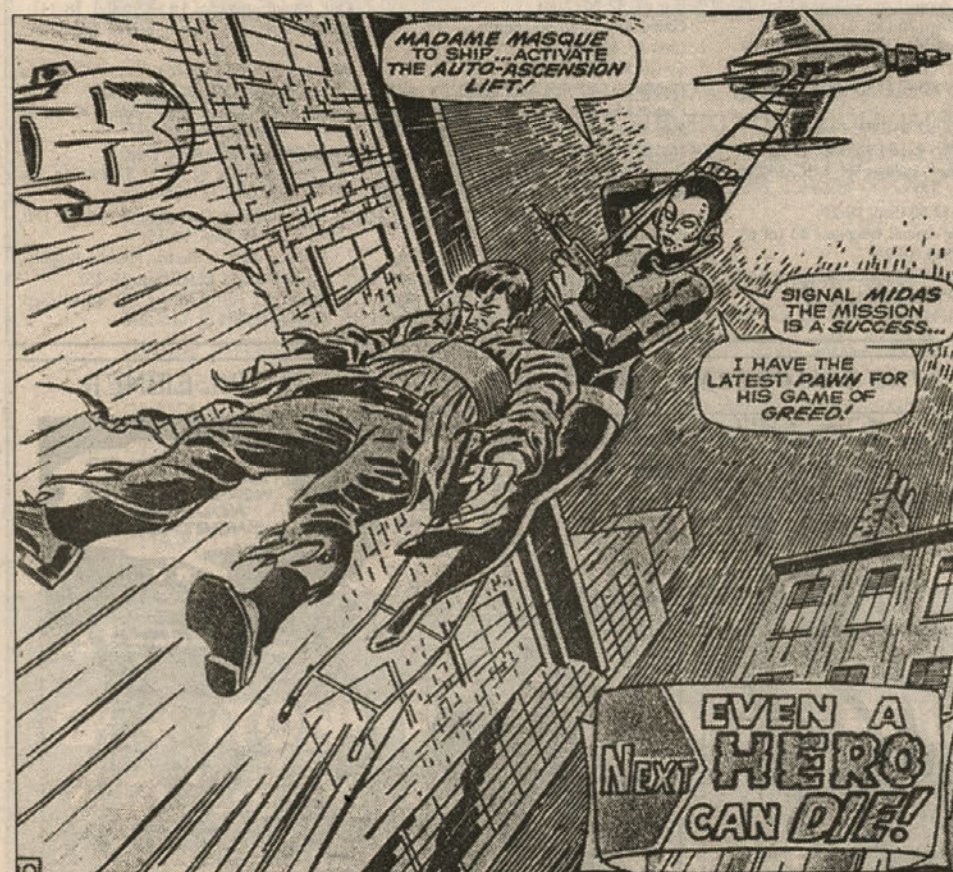
• Spidey vs. Doc Ock in *Amazing Spider-Man* #31-33 (Dec 65-Feb 66). "The obvious no-brainer on my list. The best Spider-Man story ever! Peter was so obsessed with getting the medicine that would save Aunt May that he alienated an entire new supporting cast. And, of course, two never-topped action sequences, 'Man on a Rampage' in #32 and the oft-imitated, never-duplicated sequence in #33 where Spidey went way, way beyond his limits to save his aunt's life.

"The series could have ended here, and it'd still have been one of the all-time greats of comics history."

- The Dormammu Saga in *Strange*

Tales #130-141 (Mar 65-Feb 66). "Lee and Ditko again, and the greatest Doctor Strange story of all time: Baron Mordo, Dormammu, Clea — and Eternity, for Pete's sake. All wrapped up in a 12-part, international-adventure and inter-dimensional epic with some of Ditko's most atmospheric, paranoid art, plus a relentless pace and a thrilling final duel."

• The Frightful Four in *Fantastic Four* #41-43 (Aug 65-Oct 65). "The Frightful Four weren't just the anti-FF, they were the anti-family! That really set off The FF's family bonds — particularly when they were torn apart when Ben was brainwashed. It's got terrific action and involving character drama that put The FF, as people, front and center. It's part of an amazing run of



Iron Man #17-19 were just packed with stuff, including the debut of Madame Masque. Anybody wanna join Busiek in asking Marvel to collect Archie Goodwin's entire run?



Virtually every Spider-fan remembers this classic panel from **Amazing Spider-Man** #33, and Busiek is no exception, picking this three-part story as one of his all-time faves.

FF. Many, many people would rank the Galactus Trilogy (#48-50), 'This Man, This Monster' (#51), or 'The Battle of the Baxter Building' (#40) higher. But if I could have only one **FF** story, I'd pick this one."

• Yellowjacket's introduction in *Avengers* #59-60 (Dec 68-Jan 69). "The *Avengers* had a lot of high points, including 'The Kree-Skull War' (#89-97), that Arkon two-parter (#75-76) and The Vision's introduction (#57), but this one does it best for me. John Buscema is at his best here, and George Klein is the best inker Big John ever had (sorry, Tom Palmer). Yellowjacket is such a fun character here: cocky, arrogant, and full of life. There's a real spirit to this story that epitomized the Silver Age *Avengers* for me."

• "Enter: The Leap Frog!" in *Daredevil* #25 (Feb 67). "The action and adventure in the Lee-Colan *Daredevil* were fun, but it's the comedy stuff that really made it go.

"Nothing did that better than the introduction of Mike Murdock, Matt's swingin' 'twin brother.' On the surface, it's slapstick daffiness but, underneath, it's about people pretending to be what they thought other people expected of them. Oh yeah, and you can't go wrong with The Leap-Frog."

No doubt about it, Alan, that's a

darned quirky list. But it's pretty easy to see some of the continuing themes from Kurt's own comics popping up in the ones he likes best. No doubt he has even more Silver Age-inspired stories yet to tell himself. I'm hoping he gets to them soon.



The gang's all here, thanks in part to Clea TV, as the epic 12-part saga featuring Dormammu, Mordo, and Eternity concluded in "Let There Be Victory" in **Strange Tales #141**.

SUN
OCT 10

Born on this date:
Linda Grant
Paul Nagy (1959) 40 years ago
Douglas W. Dlin (1967)

MON
OCT 11

Columbus Day (observed)
Thanksgiving Day (Canada)

Born on this date:
Bruce Hamilton
Kathryn Mayer
Joe Simon (1915)
Todd R. Reis (1949) 50 years ago
Jim Woodring (1952)
Patrick J. Williams (1958)

TUES
OCT 12

Columbus Day

Born on this date:
Roger Armstrong (1917)
Pat Brady (1947)
Dan Abnett (1965)

WED
OCT 13

CBG #1354 ships — our annual giant-sized mega-issue features the record-setting 1,354-issue Dell Four Color series. As CBG passes that milestone itself, editor Maggie Thompson presents a giant feature on the giant series.

Born on this date:
Margaret Clark
Ed Magalong
Harry Hershfield (1885)
Robert M. Ingersoll (1952)

THURS
OCT 14

Born on this date:
Charlie Williams (1952)
Michael R. Hawkins (1965)
Brandon Peterson (1969) 30 years ago

FRI
OCT 15

Born on this date:
Vince Colletta
Cam Kennedy (1944) 55 years ago

SAT
OCT 16

Born on this date:
Joe Sinnott (1926)
Bob Hall (1944) 55 years ago
Mark Badger (1958)

Publishers

To see your comics listed here, please supply the exact shipping date for each title as soon as possible, preferably at least one month ahead of time. Send the information to: Maggie Thompson, CBG Calendar, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990. The same goes for any other announcements, additions, and corrections.

CBG Calendar Notes

Continuing This Week

• **Cartoon Art Museum**, 814 Mission St., San Francisco, CA. Call for updates on current exhibits: (415) CAR-TOON.

• **Hero**, an exhibit of the work of Japanese artist Yoshitaka Amano, on display through Oct. 31 at the Orensanz Center for the Arts, 172 Norfolk St., New York, NY. The multimedia exhibit includes drawings from the upcoming *Sandman: Dream Hunters*; such videogames as *Final Fantasy V*, VI, and VIII; kimonos; screenings of Amano's animated film *1001 Nights*; ceramics; and a preview of Amano's newest character, Hero. Special events during the exhibit include a reading by *Sandman* creator Neil Gaiman at 7 p.m. Oct. 7; a special screening of *1001 Nights* at 7 p.m. Oct. 9; a panel discussion

on comics at 7 p.m. Oct. 14; and a panel discussion on videogames at 7 p.m. Oct. 26. Center hours: Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. Info: (212) 529-7194.

• **International Museum of Cartoon Art**, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, FL 33432. Call for updates on current exhibits: (561) 391-2200. Current exhibit: **50 Years of Peanuts: The Art of Charles M. Schulz**, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Schulz' world-famous comic strip, featuring his early work, his products, and his life, on display through Jan. 30.

New comics scheduled to ship this week

The following information is taken from publisher and distributor solicitations and updates and is as accurate as possible at press time. Check with your local retailer to find out what day new comics go on the shelves. Comics that are delayed or rescheduled will be tracked in future CBG Calendars. Note: ♦ indicates a rescheduled comic book that appeared in a previous CBG Calendar.

Archie Comics Publications

Betty #80, \$1.79
Betty & Veronica Digest #108, \$1.99
Sonic Super Special #11, \$2.29

Caliber

♦ Legends of Camelot: The Enchanted Lady, \$2.95 (Jul)

Chaos! Comics

Evil Ernie: War of the Dead #1 (of 3),

\$2.95

Stone Cold Steve Austin #1 (of 4) (two covers), \$2.95

CPM Manga

♦ Martian Successor Nadesico #3, \$2.95 (Aug)

Dark Horse

Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Spike and Dr. Queen of Hearts, \$2.95

Heart of Empire: Legacy of Luther Arkwright #7 (of 9), \$3.50

Masakazu Katsura's Shadow Lady: Dangerous Love TPB, \$17.95

Masakazu Katsura's Shadow Lady: Eyes of a Stranger (1 of 7) #13, \$2.50

Sin City: Hell and Back #4 (of 9), \$2.95

Star Wars: Bounty Hunters: Kenix Kil, \$2.95

DC Comics

Adventures of Superman #573, \$1.99

Azrael: Agent of the Bat #59, \$2.25

Batman: No Man's Land #0, \$4.95

Batman: Shadow of the Bat #92, \$1.99

Batman: The Long Halloween TPB, \$19.95

Books of Magic #67, \$2.50

Congo Bill #3 (of 4), \$2.95

Crimson Sourcebook #1, \$2.95

Deathblow: Sinners and Saints TPB, \$19.95

Finals #4 (of 4), \$2.95

Hourman #9, \$2.50

Impulse #55, \$2.25

JLA: Primeval, \$5.95

♦ JLA/The Titans: The Technis Imperative TPB, \$12.95 (Oct. 3-9)

Legends of the DC Universe #23,

\$1.99

Legionnaires #78, \$2.50

Nightwing #38, \$1.99

Scooby-Doo #29, \$1.99

Stars and S.T.R.I.P.E. #5, \$2.50

Superman Adventures #38, \$1.99

♦ Tom Strong #5, \$2.95 (Sep. 26-Oct. 2)

Tomorrow Stories #3, \$2.95

Transmetropolitan #28, \$2.50

Image Comics

Ascension #20, \$2.50

Fathom Collected Ed. #3, \$5.95

Marvel Comics

Amazing Spider-Man #12, \$2.99

Avengers: United They Stand #2,

\$1.99

Black Panther #13, \$2.50

Blade: Vampire Hunter #1, \$3.50

Deathlok #5, \$1.99

Generation X #58, \$1.99

Iron Man #23, \$1.99

Marvel Mystery Comics, \$3.95

Mutant X #15, \$1.99

New Warriors #3, \$2.50

Spider-Girl #15, \$1.99

Wolverine 1999, \$3.50

X-Men: Phoenix #1 (of 3), \$2.50

Mixx Entertainment

♦ Sailor Moon Super S Pocket Mixx Vol. 2, \$9.95 (Jun)

Viz Communications

Dragonball Part 2 #8 (of 15), \$2.95

Inu-Yasha: A Feudal Fairy Tale Part 3 #7 (of 7), \$3.25

Pulp Vol. 3 #11, \$5.95

Silent Mobius: Into the Labyrinth #6 (of 6), \$3.25

Video Girl Ai Vol. 1 TPB, \$15.95

Shipping notes and updates

• **Confirmed shipping:** We have received confirmation that the following titles have shipped and should be available in stores. This reflects shipping information received through Sept. 24.

A Silent: Arsenic Lullaby (Sep 99), \$2.50 (Sep)

Acorn: Orville #3, \$2.95 (Sep)

Action Planet: Hot Twisted Love, \$2.95 (Sep)

Amaze Ink/Slave Labor: Gloom Cookie #2, \$2.95 (Sep)

Lenore #6, \$2.95 (Jul)

Antarctic: Warrior Nun Areala Vol. 3 #3, \$2.50 (Sep)

Archie: Archie & Friends #38, \$1.79 (Sep. 19-25)

Betty & Veronica #142, \$1.79 (Sep. 19-25)

Betty & Veronica Double Digest #84, \$2.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Sonic the Hedgehog #77, \$1.79 (Sep. 19-25)

Awesome: Lionheart #1, \$2.99 (Jul)

Black Bear: Spirit of the Highwayman TPB, \$10.95 (Sep)

Bongo: Bart Simpson's Treehouse of Horror #5, \$3.50 (Sep)

Chaos: Purgatori: Goddess Rising #4 (of 4), \$2.95 (Sep)

Claypool: Elvira #77, \$2.50 (Sep)

CPM: Call Me Princess #5, \$2.95 (Sep)

Lodoss War: The Lady of Pharis #6, \$2.95 (Sep)

Martian Successor Nadesico #2, \$2.95 (Jul)

Record of Lodoss War: The Grey Witch Book One TPB, \$15.95 (Aug)

Dancing Elephant: Kane Book 4: Thirty-Ninth, \$19.95 (Jul)

Dark Horse: Batman/Tarzan: Claws of Catwoman #1 (of 4), \$2.95 (Sep. 19-25)

Drakuun: Shadow of the Warlock TPB, \$14.95 (Sep. 19-25)

Heart of Empire: The Legacy of Luther Arkwright #6 (of 9), \$2.95 (Sep. 5-11)

Xena: Warrior Princess #1 (two covers), \$2.95 (Sep. 19-25)

DC: Batman #571, \$1.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Batman Beyond #1, \$1.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Body Doubles #2 (of 4), \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

Books of Faerie: Molly's Story #3 (of 4), \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

Catwoman: Guardian of Gotham #2 (of 2), \$5.95 (Sep. 26-Oct. 2)

Day of Judgment #4 (of 5), \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

Deathblow: By Blows #1 (of 3), \$2.95 (Sep. 19-25)

Dreaming #42, \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

Flash Secret Files #2, \$4.95 (Sep. 19-25)

Golden Age Flash Archives Vol. 1 HC, \$49.95 (Sep. 12-18)

Hitman #43, \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

L.A.W. (Living Assault Weapons) #3 (of 6), \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

League of Extraordinary Gentlemen #4 (of 6), \$2.95 (Aug. 8-14)

Robin #70, \$1.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Speed Racer #2 (of 3), \$2.50 (Sep. 5-11)

Strange Adventures #1 (of 4), \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

Supergirl #38, \$1.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Superman #150, \$2.95 (spec. ed., \$3.95) (Sep. 19-25)

Diva: Central City #1, \$5 (Sep)

Egmont Fleetway: 2000 A.D. #1155-1159, \$3.25 (Aug. Sep)

Judge Dredd Magazine #57, \$6.95 (Aug)

Fantagraphics: Silky Whip Extreme #5, \$3.50 (Sep)

That Kind of Girl, \$12.95 (Jul)

Harris: Vampirella: Rebirth #1 (of 3), \$2.95 (Aug)

Heavy Metal: Heavy Metal (Nov 99), \$4.95 (Aug. 22-28)

Image: Ascension #19, \$2.50 (Sep. 12-18)

Blue #1, \$2.50 (Aug)

Cosmic Ray #2, \$2.95 (Aug)

Crow #8, \$2.50 (Sep)

Cy-Gor #3, \$2.50 (Sep)

Deadlands: One Shot, \$6.95 (Jul)

Duncan's Kingdom #1, \$2.95 (Sep)

Kiss: Psycho Circus Vol. 2: Destroyer TPB, \$9.95 (Aug)

Savage Dragon #66, \$2.50 (Aug)

Komics: Combatmetal Haemos Vol. 2, \$8.95 (Aug)

ESP Ultra Vol. 2, \$8.95 (Aug)

Lightspeed: Finder TPB Vol. 1: Sin Eater, \$15.95 (Aug)

London Night: Razor's Edge #2 (two covers), \$4.95 (spec. & nude eds., \$6) (Aug)

Marvel: Avengers: Domination Factor #1.2 (of 4), \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

Bishop: The Last X-Man #2 (two covers), \$1.99 (Sep. 12-18)

Deadpool #34, \$1.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Earth X #8 (of 12), \$2.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Gambit #10, \$1.99 (Sep. 19-25)

Webspinners: Tales of Spider-Man #11, \$2.50 (Sep. 19-25)

X-51 #4, \$1.99 (Sep. 19-25)

X-Men #94, \$2.99 (Sep. 12-18)

X-Men: Children of the Atom #1 (of 6), \$2.99 (Sep. 12-18)

Mixx: Sailor Moon Pocket Mixx Vol. 4, \$9.95 (Jul)

New Breed: Tohubohu #1, \$3.25 (Sep)

New England: Tick Lunny Bin Trilogy Bonanza TPB, \$4.95 (Aug)

Oni: Jenny Finn #2 (of 4), \$2.95 (Jul. 18-24)

Radio: Wildlifers Back-to-School Special #1, \$4.95 (Sep)

Schism: Bru-Hed's Guide to Gettin' Girls Now Vol. #2, \$2.50 (Aug. 22-28)

Sirius: Dawn: Return of the Goddess #2 (of 4), \$2.95 (Jun)

Poison Elves #49, \$2.50 (Sep)

Viz: Black & White #2 (of 5), \$3.25 (Sep. 19-25)

Night Warriors: Darkstalkers' Revenge TPB, \$15.95 (Sep. 19-25)

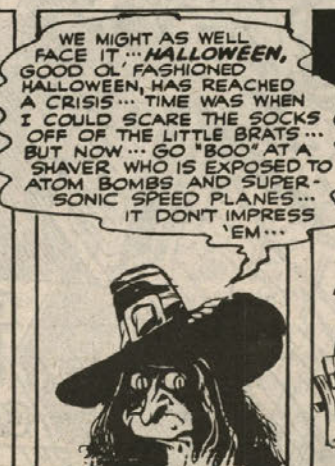
Pokemon Part 3: Electric Pikachu Boogaloo #3 (of 4), \$2.95 (Sep. 19-25)

Ranna 1/2 Part 8 #6 (of 13), \$2.95 (Sep. 19-25)

THE SPIRIT



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WILL EISNER



The Spirit is available in comics shops. To order Will Eisner-related products, including graphic novels and art prints, call Poorhouse Press at (954) 726-4343, fax (954) 721-1823, or write Poorhouse Press, 8333 W. McNab Rd., Tamarac, FL 33321.

COMIC SHOP DIRECTORY

The following is a listing of comic shops across the country, arranged by state. Be sure to mention that you saw it in CBG!

Retailers listed in bold sell Comics Buyer's Guide in their stores. For information on how you can sell Comics Buyer's Guide in your store contact your Comics Distributor or our Bulk Sales Department at 715-445-2214.

The stores bearing the PACER logo are members of the Professional Association of Comics & Entertainment Retailers.

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Crime and Punishment 16 poor, bot
1/2 fr missing \$2
Flickity & Flip 24 coverless \$1.50
Fritz Ritz 59 fair (last issue) \$2
Program 4 poor, split cov, extra stpls \$1
Herbie 8 vg but 1/2 cov, origin in \$6
Little People FC292 fr \$2
Marvel Family 26 coverless \$4
Nyoka 27 coverless \$2.50
Whiz 108 coverless \$5
Adv of Alan Ladd 8 gvg; 52-pg in \$40
Justice 36 vg \$10
Secret Love Stories on (Fox Giant) 132-pg
cover loose, 4"-spine split; incl
1 issue Junior, Jo-Jo \$32
Jungle Jo 2 poor, book cpl but 5"-mar thru
whole book (vert from top) \$7
Real Clue Crime Stories v2 n8 g, date stamp,
Dan Barry cover \$7
Romantic Secrets 29 g, spine wr, photo/cov \$3.50
31 g, rusty top staple almost
loose; pic \$3.50
33 fr, photo/cov \$1
Romantic Adventures 35 fr, cov almost split \$1.50
Roy Rogers 111 poor \$1.50
Smash 64 fr, 16 pc mag bot sp, 2" tear; pcs mag
off spine \$7
Spiko & Tyke 5 fr, sticker on cover
18 fr, 3"-tear off bot staple \$1
Swordsmen 71 fr, cov split, photo/cov \$2.50
Soldier 4 fr, tear & tape top edge, pc mag but
spine \$2
10 coverless \$1
Flash 274, 275 vg \$1
Superman 319, 323, 327, 334, 341 fine
Star Wars 40, 41 v Williams art
(Empire Strikes Back adapt) @ \$5
Joan Hex 18, 28, 39, 43 vfr @ \$2
Unexpected 182, 196, 222 vfr @ \$1
Unknown Soldier 209, 232, 234, 240, 249,
251, 252, 254, 255, 259, 262, 263
at least fr-vfr @ \$1
New Adv Superboy 3, 9, 10, 29 vfr @ \$1
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123 vfr \$2
Our Army at War 266 f \$2
Sgt Rock 306 fr \$4
314, 316, 317, 319, 320 fr-vfr @ \$3
326, 333, 350 fr-vfr @ \$2
Brave and Bold 138, 145, 146, 147, 162, 166,
167, 197 at least fine @ \$1.50
Weird War 60-63, 67, 80 fine @ \$1
Men of War 18-26 vfr @ \$1
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Roy Rogers Coloring Book (Whitman
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Paint with Water (Whitman #1411,
© 1955) Drawings by Tony Strobl and
Norm McCarty, 6 pages heavily colored,
cover detached \$12
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Books #390, © 1959) Bilko photo/cov
3 pages colored, 2 of them heavily \$12
The World of Little Abner (Ballantine
Bks #U2249) 5th pg, Sept 1965. Fine,
hot marker doodling across title \$4
The Secret World of Roy Williams
(Bantam Bks #1697) Dec 1957 Cartoon
collection by The Big Mouseketeer
(Mouseketeer). Not commonly
seen, little known. Nice. Fine cond \$5
The Vampire of the Continent by Count
Ernst zu Reventlow, transl. from the
German by George Chatterton-Hill.
The Jackson Press, NY, 1916. Great
cover illustration of vampire on his
victim but this is actually a little-known
history of Europe (from Napoleonic
era) where "England is exposed to
the reader as the vampire." Hard cover
no djs. Fine cond (unusual) \$15
ADVENTURE BOOKS
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Rockwood (Cupples & Leon, 1925)
111 by Ernest Townsend (Rockwood is
author of Bombs the Jungle Boy Series)
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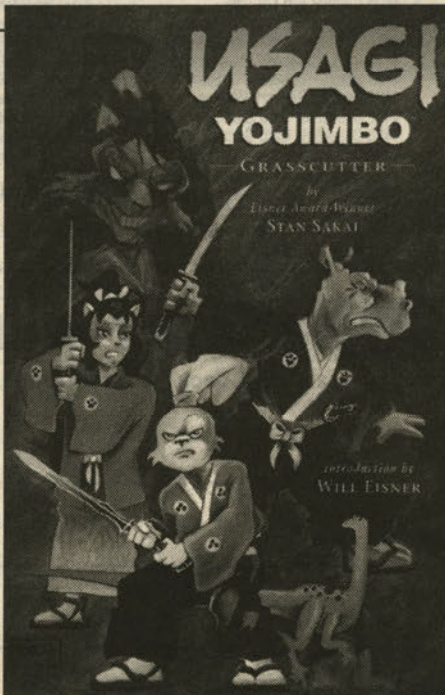


By Maggie Thompson

There are some terrific books available these days — and “books” in this case is not lazyspeak for “comic books.” Some of the best buys in comics today consist of collections of previously serialized stories. Some offer serious scholarship dished up by folks who know how to provide information in an entertaining fashion purchasers will want to read and reread.

Usagi Yojimbo (Book 12):

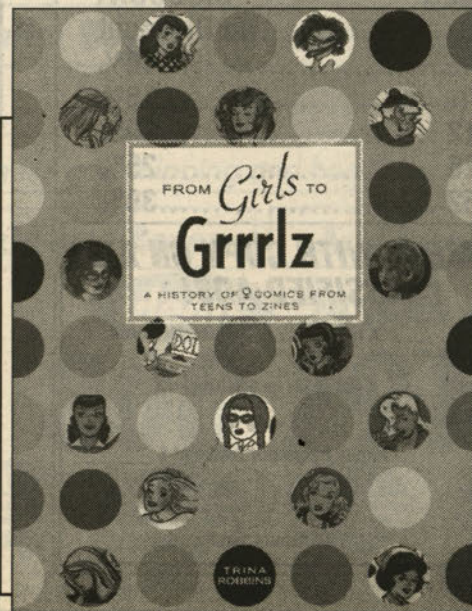
Grasscutter is one of those one-person projects: Stan Sakai did the whole thing (and has been doing it for years, starting in Fantagraphics' *Critters* in 1986. This collection (99, Dark Horse, black and white trade paperback, ISBN 1-56971-413-4, \$16.95) consists of the storyline which just won an Eisner for Best Serialized Story. It originally appeared in *Usagi Yojimbo* #13-22, but the design in the complete story is even more clear and compelling when it can be read in one sitting. Some background of the story may be familiar to American audiences via the story as told in the *Shogun* TV mini-series; Sakai heavily researches what would seem to the new reader as a “funny animal” story. This edition is rich with Sakai's annotation of the legends he's used to tell this new, terrific adventure of the rabbit ronin.



Trina Robbins has been in the forefront of research on female comics creators and female comics characters for years. Her enthusiasm in uncovering both influences on women and influences by women in this field is unflagging and productive. In *From Girls to Grrrlz* (1999, Chronicle Press, ISBN 0-8118-2199-4, \$17.95), she offers a history of comic books starring women — both as characters and creators. The pink jacket with its polka-dot design satirically identifies the theme from the bookstore shelf, and the interior design (all designed by Martine Trélaün) reinforces the eye-catching topic. The contents page demonstrates the changing focuses from girls' comics (1941-57) to women's comics (1947-77) to womyn's comix (1970-89) to grrrlz' comix (1990s). (Sure, they overlap.) And Robbins leads the reader logically through trends to grasp messages in a book aimed at adults, complete with text and samples of work as diverse as comics for little girls and undergrounds providing lesbian stories. Delightful and packed with insight, it's powerful, it's well-phrased, and it offers an approach that may be new to readers who (it is to be hoped) will seek out Robbins' recommendations. Even fans who think they know all about comics will find something here they didn't know.



Put it on your wantlist for December immediately; the book has already been printed, so it's going to be sitting on store shelves for dependable giving and getting. It's Les Daniels' *Batman: The Complete History* (1999, Chronicle Books, \$29.95). It's absolutely swell. You should already have a copy of Daniels' *Superman: The Complete History* (also \$29.95); if not, grab it now; these two hardcovers are a dynamic duo, packed with loving detail. (There seem to be incredible design talents at some publishing houses these days; in this case, Chip Kidd handled the loving art direction and design that'll suck even a casual page-flipper into settling down in a comfortable chair for relaxed reading.) As with the other book, there's a full spectrum of art, from Golden Age versions to Alex Ross paintings — and an incredible variety of pop culture versions in between. Kenner action figure variants are here, as are photos of Conrad Veidt from *The Man Who Laughs* (think Joker), complete stories, pencilled roughs, movie info, and creator data. However the Batman fan came to the character, he or she will find new directions to follow.



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SETS BABYLON 5, 1-11 NM, \$150; Animal Man 1-87, FN/ NM, \$70. Doom Patrol 1-87, NM, \$75. Flash 2nd Ser. 1-11, \$18. Caputo, 62-1080th St., Middle Village, NY 11379. 718-457-9203.

TEEN TITANS 1960 #7, VF-, \$15; #8 FN+, \$10; #10 VG, \$4; #18 VF-, \$10, #23 VF+, \$15; #34 NM-, \$7. Mike 978-937-0990 or mandmccasidy@mediaone.net.

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FRONTIER FIGHTERS #1; piece off top & bottom. Also tape. Tight, complete copy, \$40 postpaid. Bob Ranken, 25012 Wiley Canyon Rd., Newhall, CA 91321.

BRAVE AND Bold #29 (second JLA), FA-, \$50. #30, FA-, \$35. Request details. Huge sales/ trade list. John Pierce, 328 Powhatan, Columbus, OH 43204 or jpierce65@hotmail.com.

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GREEN LANTERN 135-137, 139-141, 144-167, 198-205, Crisis, Teen Titans 22-34, 40-45, Deluxe 1-3, Flash 303-308, 310-315, 318, 320-325, 328, 330, 331. Bob 718-967-7363.

TEEN TITANS, 1980, Issues 9-32, 38-41, 46-50, annuals 1-2, Secret Origins Annual 3. Leroy Hamilton, 9824 S. Western, PMB 160, Evergreen Park, IL 60805. hamiltl@aol.com.

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FLASH 109, G, \$40; 115, G, \$20; 116, VG/F, \$50; 118, G/ VG, \$30; 124 \$37.50; 130, VG/F, 430. More available; inquire. Jim Forte 800-594-3837. <http://grt.com>

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4131 DC, WANTED

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WANTED! JUSTICE League 135, 136, 144, 147, 151-154; Star Spangled War Stories 134, 151; Superboy (60s) #68, FN or better; 90s #64, 65; others. Gerry 818-779-7643.

FLASH WANTED: G+/VG set #200- 350. Also need #100-199. Can't afford fine. Let's deal. Thanks! Bob Lane, 36 South Columbine, Lombard, IL 60148.

4140 DELL/GOLD KEY/WHITMAN FOR SALE

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THE HORSE Soldiers, #1048, G+, \$14, Zorro #8, VG+ \$8, Daniel Boone, #1163, F, \$6, \$2 shipping. Victor Bracht, 245 Avenue D, Billings, MT 59101.

TUROC SON Of Stone Mar. 1962 #27 G+ \$7.50 plus \$2.50 postage. Geoffrey Mahfuz, 30 Phebe Ave., Lowell, MA 01854. mahfuz@helix.mgh.harvard.edu

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4161 EC, WANTED

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SPACE BUSTERS #2, Fair, \$25; Johnny Hazard #8, Good-, \$10; Zorro #574, VG/F, \$35; #882, Good, \$18. Many references. Shaun Clancy 425-481-6239. mclancy961@aol.com

ARCHIE Annual #2 VFN, \$375. Batman #8-G, \$350. #34-G, \$65. Action #101-G, \$100. Dan Feldman, 104 Beach Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. 407-834-2780 eves.

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ACTION COMICS 94, 107, 123, 128, 131, 190. Detective 2, 29, 31. More fun 7, 15, 16, 17. New Fun 3, 4, 5. Brian 860-347-5766.

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ROLLING STONE (1977) #236-238, #240-248, #250-255, VG, \$1 each, \$3 shipping. Victor Bracht, 245 Avenue D, Billings, MT 59101.

MAGAZINE OF Fantasy and Science Fiction, April 1975, March 1976, February 1976, 8-74, \$3 ea., postage \$3. Dave Zustiak, 2268 Gall Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109.

TALES OF The Zombie #1, \$12; #7 \$6; #10 \$5; Super Annual #1, \$9; postage \$3. Dave Zustiak, 2268 Gall Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109.

BAKER STREET Journal: 1946- #3, vol. 2 #1, #2, #3, #4, vol. 3 #2, #3, vol. 4 #1, mint \$25 each. Claude Held, Box 515, Buffalo, NY 14225.

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| 4100 Archie, For Sale | 4210 Marvel/Timely, For Sale | 4450 Magazines, For Sale |
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4450 MAGAZINES, FOR SALE

PLAYBOY COLLECTION: Misc. 60s-80s, have most 1985 through 1994. Will trade for 1/98 and 1/99 issues. Adams, 285 Beattie Ave., Lockport, NY 14094-5641. E-mail: <http://jqaiiii@aol.com>

X-FILES, 10 different NM issues, includes Cinffantastiques. Cover prices, \$60. Sale \$40, postage extra. Fax 718-646-0211. Bill Yawien, 2625 Emmons Ave. #3-B, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

4451 MAGAZINES, WANTED

DESPERATELY NEED back issues of "Bikini" magazine. Need two each of April, May, and June issues. Contact Jerry Skaggs, 103 Southside Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.

CHIC MAGAZINE September and November 1978. Bryan Edwards, 2106 Old Cherry Point Rd, New Bern, NC 28560. Need these to complete my collection.

BARELY LEGAL, Playboy NSS (Book of Lingerie, Voluptuous Vixens), Hawk, Gent, Fling, Swinger, Lollypops, Candy Girls, Tight, Babyface, Busty: Polwort, POB 5152, St. Louis, MO 63139.

GOLDEN MAGAZINE for boys and girls. 1960s magazines wanted. Check your attics. Help. Help. Dan Cherney, 2525 Vermilion Road, Vermilion, Ohio 44089-3711. dan123@kellnet.com

NATURALIST (NUDIST) material wanted. Buying non-airbrushed mags, books, etc... Send lists with issue numbers, year and conditions. S. Dowdy, 5120 North Spring, Roanoke, VA 24019.

MODESTY BLAISE: Comics Revue #92 and #122 wanted. Name your price. Will settle for photocopies of Modesty Blaise pages from these issues. Steve 803-738-3761.

WE BUY all movie and TV magazines pre 1970. Playboy, pre 1964. Paperbacks pre 1960. Ed Kalb, 1353 S. Los Alamos, Mesa, AZ 85204. 480-981-8957.

HARSH MISTRESS Science Fiction Magazine #1, Mike Shayne Mystery Magazine, February 1968. Name your price. Bill Finocchiaro, 611 Kimball Ave., Fulton, NY 13069. 315-593-3454.

PHILIP K. Dick fanzines, interviews, short stories, in IF, other magazines. Don Walsh, 323 Buchanan St., Alexandria, VA 22314-2105. 703-548-5742.

MAN FROM Uncle issues 1 thru 9, (same size as Ellery Queen). Richard Desrochers, 340 Evergreen St. Apt. 1, Pawtucket, RI 02861.

ROOK #3 & #4, Blazing Combat #1 (reading copy), also House of Mystery #182, 184, 187, 190, 194, 196. e-mail: Bill Shelly wschellyaol.com

GIRLIE MAGS wanted from 1950s to mid-70s. Adam, Modern Man, Nudist, all titles. Collections purchased. Bill Megyery, 1733A North Larrabee, Chicago, IL 60614.

GOLDEN MAGAZINE for boys and girls. 1964 to 1972. Wanted in Fine or better. Help Help. Dan Cherney, 2525 Vermilion Rd., Vermilion, OH 44089-3711. dan123@kellnet.com

WANTED: DETECTIVE 475, 1970s Playboy's Gahan Wilson cartoon collection, Mighty Crusaders comics, Gene Colan drawn comics. Kim Klein, 2800 University Blvd. South, Jacksonville, FL 32216.

4452 SCIENCE FICTION, FOR SALE

LEA HERNANDEZ in Dignifying Science! New from G.T. Labs in September's Previews. Visit <http://www.gt-labs.com> for more information on our Eisner nominated and Xeric winning books.

STAR TREK 25 year collection for sale. Some good stuff! Send large SASE to: Ron Porter, PO Box 221, Poway, CA 92064.

P. ANDERSON, Piers Anthony Clark, Asimov or Heinlein, 20 assorted PBs, \$30 plus postage. MO or check. Book Stop, 226 E. Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. 516-794-9129.

STAR WARS Interlocking TV Guides, 5/21/99, 6/12/99. Each set four covers, all 8 \$25 plus postage. Bill Yawien, 2625 Emmons Ave #3-B, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

4453 SCIENCE FICTION, WANTED

READABLE COPY February 1999 issue Fantasy and Science Fiction must have Peter David's story Archtype that David said would be the last Super Man story if it was published in a comic. Zerox, fax, typed or any form readable ok. 916-444-9231. Glenn Hakanson, 2830 I #E, Sacramento, CA 95816.

STAR TREK Voyager Season 5 on VHS. SLP Mode OK. Contact Mike, 401 North Rainbow Ranch Rd., Wimberly, TX 78676.

4600 REPRINTS, FOR SALE

DICK TRACY, Flash Gordon Vol. 2 HC, Johnny Comet Eclipse, Johnny Hazard, Li'l Abner, Male Call H/C, Phantom, Secret Agent X9. SASE. Gemmell, POB 740982, Arvada, CO 80006.

SOFTCOVER BOOKS: Mr. Monster TPB, origins (signed), Batman: Dark Knight TPB, \$10 ea. Marvels TPB, \$15, postage \$3. James 770-428-8288.

4601 REPRINTS, WANTED

WILL TRADE Flash Archives Vol. #1 in N/Mint for Marvel Masterworks #10 in Fine or better. Art Hullinger, RR 6 Box 108, Decatur, IL 62521-8826.

4605 PHONE CARDS FOR SALE

X-FILES OR Simpson's phone cards, \$7.50 for the pair. Walter Wyzujak, 1508 Christina St., Rockford, IL 61104-4709.

4610 PORTFOLIOS/POSTERS FOR SALE

IF YOU don't buy these prints, original art and books, I'm going on ebay! Send SASE for list. Dave LeClair, 3 Arlington, Holyoke, MA 01040.

4630 TRADING CARDS FOR SALE

SHI, \$28; Silver Surfer, \$35; Lisner's Dawn 1, \$20; TV movie sets, \$6.50; all ppd. CM Taylor, 67-08 Parsons Blvd. 6B, Flushing, NY 11365.

WACKY PACKAGES original sets #2 to #12, \$100 each set. NM/M, selling entire collection. Mario Luna, 312-738-3285, singles also!

BUFFY PHOTO Cards, \$17; series 3, \$15; Star Wars Phantom Menace series 2, \$16. CM Taylor, 67-08 Parsons Blvd. 6B, Flushing, NY 11365.

CHIPPER JONES 1990 classic rookie Mint card, \$7.95; Manny Ramirez 1991 Classic rookie Mint card, \$7.95. Eagle Collectibles, 3338 Appel, Bethel Park, PA 15102. 412-831-3989.

CARD SETS \$5 and up; also display, boxes, wax wrappers, promos, etc. SASE for list. Lanny Burton, 439 Bedford Ave., Xenia, OH 45385.

SELMA HAYEK Guko, WWW platinum portrait. Hundreds of inserts, \$3 and under. Trading Star Wars Finest refractors. Raymond Jordan, PO Box 59816, Potomac, MD 20859-9816.

WAX BOXES ppd.: DC Cosmic Cards, \$22; DC Cosmic Teams, \$22; Marvel III, \$30; Marvel IV, \$30. Fred Kotsabogan, PO Box 5156, Long Island City, NY 11105-5156.

WACKY PACK 1979 1st series uncut sheet \$55 postpaid. Two complete sets on these sheets. Jim Crane, 15 Clemson Ct., Newark, DE 19711. 302-738-6031.

STAR WARS promo cards & sheets! USA's biggest selection! Plus exclusive signed Galaxy cards by Perez, Dorman, Sprouse, Stout, Kane, Quesada! Free shipping! Leave address. 248-442-7726.

PLAYBOY MARCH, April, Sept., base sets, generic binders, boxes of portfolio 92, 93, Hooters 93, 94, HS3 p2. Louis Bosse, 1120 Aurora, Muskegon, MI 49442-5932.

STAR TREK Episode 7 sets, \$12 ppd. TOS II Autograph 38 T'Pring Spock's Fiancee, \$55 ppd. CM Taylor, 6708 Parsons Blvd. 6B, Flushing, NY 11365.

STAR TREK 25 year collection for sale. Some good stuff! Send large SASE to: Ron Porter, PO Box 221, Poway, CA 92064.

PROMO CARDS Bob Marley #3, \$3; #5 \$4; Avengers Return C1, C2, \$3 ea., postage \$2. Dave Zusiak, 2268 Gall Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109.

WACKY PACKAGES 1979 Re-issue first series, sets \$30 ppd. Singles 50¢; 1991 sets, \$15 ppd. Singles 25¢. Fred Kotsabogan, PO Box 5156, L.I.C., NY 11105-5156.

HERCULES T.L.J. (w/Xena) Import box set from New Zealand (cards different than US), \$35 plus shipping. Write: Bryan, 4257 Lester NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

1,000'S OF Star Trek, Star Wars, TV, movie inserts, singles and sets. SASE with want list. Brevard, PO Box 2492, Oshkosh, WI 54903. collechx@northnet.net

4631 TRADING CARDS WANTED

WACKY PACKAGES wanted. Will buy all original art work and uncut sheets, will also pay a finders fee for any information that results in a sale. Eric Roberts, 260 Atherton Ave., Atherton, CA 94027. 650-327-6570 or 650-326-8708.

NON SPORTS cards needed! Buying all lots of non sports cards. Lists/ prices to: Orion Marketing, 1807 Cold Springs Rd., Liverpool, NY 13090.

TRADE: WILDSTORM Archives I autograph A8 for any except A1, A10 or A14. Edward Moriarty, PO Box 4595, Oakbrook, IL 60522-4595.

WWF AUTOGRAPHS- will trade "Billy Gunn" for "Paul Bearer." "Stone Cold Hitz", 4 & 5 for 2 & 3. Dave Hajny, 303 W. "H" St., Hastings, ME 68901. 402-463-5128.

MAD (FLEER) 14, 16, 20, 32, 34, 47, 55, 66, 81, 83, 87, 101, 102, 106, 108, 116-120. J. Mirrione, Box 2212, Hollister, CA 95024.

4651 OLDTIME RADIO, WANTED

SEND YOUR trade list for mine. Ted Stine, 7855 Heather Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688-9613.

4660 MISCELLANEOUS, FOR SALE

SPORTS CARDS & memorabilia collectors: Buy and sell with the biggest and best collectors in the world. Place your classified ad in Sports Collectors Digest. 40,000 weekly readers. The hobby's oldest, most respected magazine. We are the "bible" of the industry. Bonus: Your classified ad also goes up on the Internet at no additional charge! Call today: 800-942-0673.

MOVIE SCRIPTS \$18, TV Scripts \$15; over 14,000 titles to choose from! Free shipping inside USA. Visit our web site at: <http://www.MadMorgan.com> to view catalog or contact: Mad Morgan Enterprises, PO Box 6698, Burbank, CA 91510. 818-848-1445; FAX: 818-840-1252.

AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS of celebrities- TV, Hollywood, singing stars, sports, more! 100+ available, low as \$6 each, postpaid. John Travlini, 217 New Rd., Wilmington, DE 19805.

FREE SHIPPING 12" Han Taun, \$115. SW CCG Premiere, \$300. Loads of comics, toys, cards. All discounted. 208-323-0778. E-mail: williamgray@yahoo.com

COLLECTIBLE MUSEUM quality photos of pin-up models from 1950s to today by Bunny Yeager. 305-757-8978. C-311 9301 NE 6th Ave., Miami, FL 33138.

GLAMOUR, CHEESECAKE, and adult videos, magazines, art, and related erotica. Great new catalog! LSASE to: Biff Smith, Dept. Glamour, 1344 West Flower, Phoenix, AZ 85013.

GERRY ANDERSON'S Space 1999 comics \$5 ea. Space Precinct Lt. Brogan \$7 Thunderbird Brit. cards \$20. C.M. Taylor, 67-08 Parsons Blvd. #6B, Flushing, NY 11365.

METEORITES- OWN a piece of another world. Authenticity guaranteed. See photos at: <http://www.meteoriteweb.com>

MARIE SEVERIN in Dignifying Science New from G.T. Labs in September's Previews. Visit <http://www.gt-labs.com> for more information on our Eisner nominated and Xeric winning books.

SGT. PRESTON'S Yukon Trail- complete set of 8 cereal boxes. No boxtops, bottoms, Exc. cond., only \$375 postpaid. John Fawcett, PO Box 1156, Waldoboro, ME 04572.

\$55 STAR Wars Han Solo/ Taun Taun two-pack sealed. Only 2 left. \$12 ppd. Robert Cook, 2503-10 St. Christopher Circle, Wilson, NC 27893. 252-246-0779. kewe@coastalnet.com.

FREE ON-LINE Comics! Enjoy the weekly adventures of "Zeke and Goulash", visit ANXST DOT COM! Free e-mail: greg@anxst.com

WHAT IF set, 55% off. Vol. #1 (#1-47), Vol. #2, #1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 16, 20, 22 ad special #1, VF+, guide \$185, \$85 ppd. for all 61 books. 215-676-5931.

RECORD ALBUMS! Dean Martin (10/LPS), \$175. Leonard Nimoy (4/LPS), \$150. Johnny Cash (6/LPS), \$100. Monkees (7/LPS), \$100. Money Orders only! Clifford, Box 113, Jonesboro, IL 62952.

SUPERMAN SALT & Pepper shakers from Warner Bros.- discontinued, mint in box @ \$20 ppd. Kevin Mooney, 30 Young Avenue, Croton-ON-Hudson, NY 10520.

SUPERMAN MILK Bottle, very cool @ \$22 ppd. Superman USPS Limited edition pin @ \$15 ppd. K.Mooney, 30 Young Avenue, Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520.

BOY'S BOOKS 1st's- Fine, DJ's: (4) Tahara \$140, (4) Don Sturdy \$100, Gene Autry (3)- \$100, include \$5 postage. Claude Held, Box 515, Buffalo, NY 14225.

4661 MISCELLANEOUS, WANTED

WRESTLING FLYERS, business cards from wrestling promotions, schools, etc. Independents only, local, regional. Please write: Charles Kline, PO Box 791, Cleveland, MS 38732-0791.

CIGARETTE COUPONS wanted. Everything except Phillip Morris products. Paying 7% face. Unexpired only. For prompt payment, send to: John Travlini, 217 New Road, Wilmington, DE 19805.

WRESTLING FLYERS, advertisements, local, regional, promotions, photocopies are okay! Charles Kline, PO Box 791, Cleveland, MS 38732-0791.

PAYING 75¢ each for pre-1960 comics in Good or better condition. For prompt payment, send to: John Travlini, 729 Berry Road, Wilmington, DE 19810.

SOFTWARE FOR the Apple 11C. Must be 5-1/4 inch disk only. Uptime, softdisk, Apple works, print shop. Jim Seeber, 3420 Rork Rd., Hastings, MI 49058.

TARZAN! SUPERMAN! Moses! Super- Adoptees! Looking for stories from adopted comics fans. Real life is stranger. R. Sayre, PO Box 6835, Seffner, FL 33584. free1969@aol.com

WANTED ANY Buckaroo Banzai items, specialty books, comics, posters. Already have viewmaster. Call Ric 860-276-8158 after 5pm Est.

SEXY FEMALE Celebrity and/ or personalities. Photos, videos, magazines, etc. Movie stars, television, sports, models. Send list(s): Gilbert Bradley, 8523 Mt. Scott, El Paso, TX 79904-2914.

LONE RANGER and Sgt. Preston Little Golden Books, other paper collectibles and related items. John Rose, POB 728, LaCrosse, KS 67548. 785-222-3657.

BASIL WOLVERTON, The Bible Story. All seven volumes needed. e-mail: Jimvanhise@aol.com, also James Van Hise, 57754 Onaga Tr., Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

4661 MISCELLANEOUS, WANTED

DEADPOOL BUST wanted! Looking to pay retail for this Bower sculpted Marvel bust. Mike 800-235-9100 Ext. 2507. Hellboy bust wanted too!

"VERTIBIRD" TOY helicopter set from 1970s. Flies in a circle on the floor at the end of a rod connected to a center base. 281-347-0648.

4700 NOVELTIES, TOYS, GAMES FOR SALE

PEP PINS- Flash Gordon and Flat Top; promo bread pins Cisco Kid and Pancho; Tarzan Sheena pocket knives \$50 each. Gemmell, POB 740982, Arvada, CO 80006.

MODEL KITS: Plastic, resin and vinyl. From and of comics, Sci-Fi, TV, movies, space; figures, etc. Old and new, hundreds available. Free sales catalog, we also buy and trade. JF Green Models, Dept. CBG, PO Box 55787, Riverside, CA 92517. 909-684-5300, 800-807-4759, Fax 909-684-8819, e-mail: cbg@greenmodels.com website: <http://www.greenmodels.com>

ANIME PLAYGROUND. Anime Entertainment site and collectible store. We carry a variety animation collectible toys, including Japanese Pokemon toys. We also feature video game reviews, art and Idol image galleries as well. Mention this ad for 10% your first order. Check us out on the Web at <http://www.animeplayground.com>

AD&D HARDCOVERS \$5 each. Player's Handbook, DMG, Monster Manual, Fiend Folio, Unearthed Arcana, more, just \$5 plus S/H. Rough condition but usable. Eric 410-644-8537.

DC RPG'S! JLA Supplement World in Balance, \$5. Green Lantern Corp. reference, \$5. Justice League Sourcebook, \$6. More! 10144 Wheatland, Sunland, CA 91040. 818-352-4096, smallstiepjuno.com

MAD'S ALFRED E. Neuman Aurora Model Kit, 1965. Complete; includes signs, instructions. Box VF, contents Mint! Most pieces still on trees. Marc, 516-829-8376. \$200 postpaid.

BURGER KING 98/99 Toys. 60 in original, unopened bags, \$30, postage extra. Fax 718-646-0211 or write: Bill Yawien, 2625 Emmons Ave. #3-B, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

POKEMAN TOYS, single and double figures, \$5 and \$7. Plushy Pokemon balls, \$5. Pokemon ball catchers, \$10. Joe 440-428-8118 or e-mail roocomics@ncw.com.

STAR WARS: Boba Fett with striped hands, \$40, Tusken Raider with closed hand, \$35 or both for \$65. e-mail: janlith@aol.com or call Jay 805-534-0963 MTFBWY!

DUKES OF Hazzard, Speed Jumper, Action Stunt Set. 1982 Knickerbocker, never opened, \$150 ppd. Mickey Ritter, 215-788-1706, 233 Wood St., Bristol, PA 19007.

PLANET OF The Ape: Mego dolls lot, 5 different, \$100 ppd. Call for info 215-788-1706. Mickey Ritter, 233 Wood St., Bristol, PA 19007.

MARVEL- DC figures, fast food-cereal premiums, games, viewmaster and misc. Low prices and free lists. Blake Long, 9113 Beulah Church Rd., Louisville, KY 40291.

4701 NOVELTIES, TOYS, GAMES WANTED

WANTED KENNER Super Powers, MOC Firestorm, Wonder Woman, Tyr, Brainiac, DeSaad, Batman, Green Lantern, Robin, Kalibak, Cyborg. Hal Reed, 320 Parkshore Drive, Columbia, SC 29223.

POWERPUFF GIRLS, Dexters Lab items information, would like to hear from fans of these cartoons. Write: Charles Kline, PO Box 791, Cleveland, MS 38732-0791.

WARHAMMER WANTED! Sell me your Warhammer Army. Loose figures, squads, whole armies wanted. Send description. Fred Quintrell, 1924 Sarazen Dr., Alhambra, CA 91803.

SUPERMAN WANTED! Yes, I'll buy your old, rare Superman collectibles! Please write or e-mail me today. Thanks! Danny Fuchs, 209-80 18th Ave., Bayside, NY 11360. superdf62@aol.com

DC SUPERHERO large "LP" record case 1976?, plate: Wonder Woman from International Museum, McAllen, Texas, figural music boxes: W.W., Joker. Tony, 847-985-2485. Evenings, IL.

ANIMATED DARKSIDE figure (new or loose). Bob Craig, PO Box 1184, Lockport, NY 14095. 716-439-6172.

MCDONALD'S BAGGED #44 Kyle Petty Hot Wheels wanted. McLean, 5 Cassidy Ave., Waterbury, CT 06704.

MCDONALD'S INSPECTOR Gadget pieces #3 and #7 bagged. Denis Schwendemann, 108 Roy St., #B-23, Seattle, WA 98109.

SUPERMAN WANTED! Yes, I'm still buying all older Superman items. Write today! Check my ebay auctions at superdf62@aol.com Danny Fuchs, 209-80 18th Ave., Bayside, NY 11360.

4800 FANZINES, FOR SALE

YELLOWBACK LIBRARY is a monthly magazine for collectors of children's series books. Sample copy, \$3. Box 36172, Des Moines, IA 50315.

YELLOWBACK LIBRARY is a monthly magazine for juvenile series book collectors. Sample copy, \$3. Box 36172, Des Moines, IA 50315.

4800 FANZINES, FOR SALE

AWODC #1 (the landmark fanzine!), \$50 ppd. Bob Craig, PO Box 1184, Lockport, NY 14095. 716-439-6172.

4801 FANZINES, WANTED

SPA FON #3 & #4 wanted. e-mail: aloreda@webmail.bellsouth.net or call 770-979-5730.

CONTEMPORARY PICTORIAL Literature (CPL) #6 & #7 wanted. Early 70s fanzine. Dave, 12 Eliot Dr., Vernon, CT 06066.

4900 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, FOR SALE

PICK OUT dates. Daily and Sunday. Great Selection. 1895 to 1998. Send your wantlist and SASE to: Gordon Campbell, 1124 Brookmeade Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

4900 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, FOR SALE

SUNDAY STRIPS, 1940's thru 1980's. Batman, Bruce Gentry, Abner, Tarzan, Tom Corbett. \$1 catalog, refundable. Send wants. Bill Coble, 331 N. Roosevelt, Shawnee, OK 74801.

MEMOMONEE FALLS Gazette 126-177, \$4 each. Priority mail, insurance extra. A few others. Inquire 716-882-2875. Donald Whyte, 46 Greenwood Place, Buffalo, NY 14213-1424.

KEITH SEZ: Patick McDonnell's "Mutts" is my favorite current comic strip. And Mr. McDonnell is a swell guy too! Pester your newspaper to carry it.

PHANTOM 26 1948-1/3, \$24; Pogo 19 1964 Tabs, \$9.50; Prince Valiant 48 1951 Full, \$90. Many more. Puff, 500 Walton Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14225. 716-834-0996.

4900 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, FOR SALE

PROTISTA CHRONICLES! See what sold like hot cakes 2+ 1999 San Diego Media Convention. Comic book compilation of comic strip. <http://www.xulucomics.com/protista.html>.

4901 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, WANTED

BUYING COLLECTIONS Phone/Fax 510-666-0732. Starland Strips, 1563 Solano PMB #155, Berkeley, CA 94707-2116.

WANTED: DOONESBURY half tabs 1994 to present and scattered other dates. Paying 35¢ each. rogerdark@volcano.net.

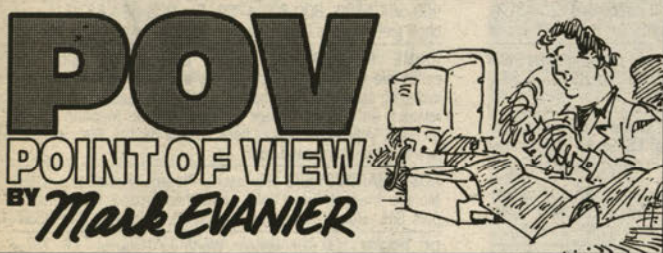
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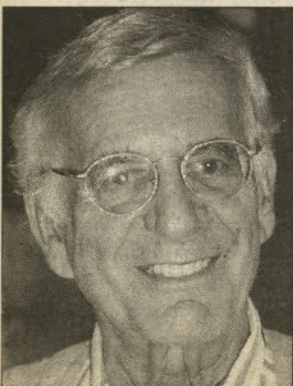


And the con report concludes ...

Saturday, Aug. 14 — Great panel on "60 Years of Batman," thanks to a fine dais: Jerry Robinson, Julius Schwartz, Denny O'Neil, Dick Giordano, Irv Novick, and Arnold Drake. It wound up being a panel, not about Batman and Robin, but about Bob Kane and Bill Finger.

Little was said about the characters or mythos. I don't think The Joker, Penguin, or Catwoman were even mentioned in 75 minutes of bat-talk. That was fine with me, since the story of Kane and Finger is at least as interesting as any about Batman and Robin. Even if it is a bit more improbable.

"Jerry Robinson won this year's Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of cartoonists and artists the world over, and it was never more richly deserved."



Robinson

As is no secret, Kane employed a number of assistants, right from the start. Sheldon Moldoff was apparently his first helper on the art — and, later on, his most prolific ghost. Jerry Robinson was his second art assistant. Bill Finger was his first writing assistant. (Finger, of course, was much more than an assistant. He actually wrote the debut Batman story and many that followed. But, because he was paid by Kane and not by the publisher on the first tale, he was technically ghost-writing for Kane — a bit of hair-splitting that effectively, unfortunately prevented him from being credited the way most writers are credited for their work.)

Messrs. Robinson, Schwartz, and Drake all spoke respectfully of Finger's contributions to the Batman legend — and Drake repeated his proposal that a fund for indigent comics creators be established, along with an award named for Finger. O'Neil and Giordano spoke of carrying the Batman legend into the '70s and beyond.

As for Irv Novick — Well, we'll get to Irv Novick in a moment.

If I have my way, you'll be reading excerpts from this panel here within a few months. But, given what's in the news these days, I thought I oughta give you a sampling of a moment on the panel when we strayed utterly

away from the subjects of both Dynamic Duos — Batman and Robin and Kane and Finger ...

Jerry Robinson went from being Kane's assistant to becoming an important comic-strip artist, political cartoonist, and art teacher. He won this year's Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of cartoonists and artists the world over, and it was never more richly deserved.

One of his many achievements came in the mid-'70s, when Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the creators of Superman, were on the "outs" from DC and their own creation, living in near-poverty. A protest was mounted on their behalf, and, while many contributed their time and anger, it eventually came down to final negotiations. Mr. Robinson spearheaded those talks —

ME: During the time that you were talking to DC on behalf of Siegel and Shuster, did Bill Finger's name come up? Was there a concern that settling with Siegel and Shuster would open up an avalanche of creators making claims against the company with Bill leading the way?

Jerry Robinson: It wasn't said openly, but I'm sure that was part on their rationale ... particularly after a week of intense negotiations with the executives at Time-Warner, with Jay Emmett, who was then vice-president. We were negotiating, fortunately, with a different generation and not with the original owners of DC. The last thing that fell into place was restoring the Siegel-and-Shuster name.

My argument was that you don't remove their names from their creation. They were very proud of what they had created. They were destitute but they still had their pride. It was almost like stripping them of their humanity. Jerry would walk past a newsstand and, if he saw Superman there, he would get physically ill. Joe was certifiably blind. Here they were — the creators of one of the greatest properties of the 20th century. But still, with all that, we had to marshal the whole industry. The National Cartoonists Society issued a resolution, as did the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. Of course, I had served as president of both. We had the Graphic Artists Guild and the

Writers Guild and any other names that I could think of ...

There were newspaper articles, both here and abroad, about their plight, and that gave us some leverage in the negotiations. At that time, one thing in our favor was that the first Superman movie was in production and they did not want any bad publicity, so that was helpful. We got their legal fees and an annual royalty — an amount that at least allowed them to live in some dignity, even though it was not what the creators [of Superman] should have gotten. But the last thing that they balked on was restoring their names. We finally did, and I think that played a part in getting Bob Kane's name back on Batman, as well.

Jerry and Joe were in New York during most of these negotiations but they couldn't stand the pressure. Jerry had already had a heart attack, so he flew back to the coast with Joe. They called me the day before what turned out to be the last negotiation and said, "We have to settle." They couldn't stand the suspense any longer. They said, "Just get the best terms you can." So this was a very difficult position to be in: to try to get as much as we could but with the fear that [Warner Bros.] would walk away from the table. I felt that they would come across but I still didn't know.

So I put in a call to Jay Emmett at 11:30 at night. I had his home number. I said, "Jay, we can settle on all the other things. The last thing is restoring their names." I said, "I can't guarantee the support of all the artists and an end to the bad publicity, if you don't get Siegel and Shuster's names back on the strip as creators."

He said, "I'll call you back in an hour." I'm sure he had to call his lawyers. And about 1 or 2 in the morning, he called back and he said, "OK, we have an agreement but not on toys. That would be difficult." And I said fine, as long as [the credit] is on all print media. Then he said, "I can't guarantee the film."

I said, "It has to be on the film." He had to call me back again but finally he agreed to that. That was the last point. They didn't know that we were going to settle the next day, no matter what they'd agreed to, because of Jerry. We couldn't take the chance with his health.

Jerry Robinson did a lot of oth-

er things to ensure a spot in Comic-Book History. But, even if he'd done nothing else, that crusade — all that he did just to get a very big company to do the right thing — would earn him a very large place. All by itself.

Ran from the Batman panel to another terrific event, again thanks to a stellar grouping. We turned away a few hundred folks who wanted to attend the Cartoon Voice Actor demo with Greg Berg, Katie Leigh, Will Ryan, Joe Alaskey, Rob Paulsen, and my favorite actress in the whole world, June Foray.

Then it was over to the annual Golden Age Artists Panel with, this year, Sam Glanzman, Irwin Hasen, Russ Heath, John Romita, Ramona Fradon, Chuck Cuidera, and Irv Novick.

Attendees witnessed the latest chapter in my ongoing attempt to get Novick to express the slightest feeling about anything he has



Novick

done in his long, prolific career in comics. He insists he didn't care what he was assigned to, didn't care who wrote it, didn't care who inked it, etc. He sits there, looking like the winner of a Hume Cronyn look-alike contest, shrugging as if I were asking the hardest questions in the world. Our first inquisition, I recall, went very much like this. Hell, they've all gone very much like this:

M.E.: Did you enjoy drawing Batman?

Irv: It was a job ...

M.E.: Did you prefer doing war comics over super-heroes?

Irv: Whatever they gave me ...

M.E.: Were Robert Kanigher's scripts easy to draw?

Irv: I never had a problem with any script ...

M.E.: Do you remember any assignment in 40 years of drawing comics that stands out in your mind?

Irv: Not particularly ...

Why do I persist in this line

of questioning? Two reasons. One is that I've met an awful lot of comics artists, particularly in the Golden and Silver Age categories and I've met precious few who didn't have some love for the craft, if not the work.

Sometimes, they don't say so. Sometimes, given how poorly the business treated them, they built up a dandy defense mechanism, belittling the form, declaring a lack of pride. It's like I just heard Nathan Lane say in an interview: "When I was a kid, I was so afraid of others making fun of me that I put myself down first. That was my way of trying to convince them that they couldn't hurt me that way."

In the same vein, certain comics artists always struck me as trying to convince everyone, themselves included, that it was never anything more than a means of buying groceries. And, even as they were saying this, they were spending five hours drawing and redrawing a page that could have been finished in two — for the same money.

Which is Novick? I haven't made my mind up yet. He's pretty convincing, when he says he never cared. Those who've seen his art in the pencil stage wonder why a man who didn't care would put so much extra effort into them, including so much subtle detail that could never possibly make it through the inking 'n' printing process. And he does keep showing up at conventions, even though he has nothing to sell

— Anyway, that's one reason I ask: to try to separate those who really felt that way from those who said it for effect. And the other reason I keep asking is that I am a blithering idiot.



Nice to meet Sam Glanzman, whose art I've always admired and who is, at age 75, doing maybe the best illustration work of his career.

There are artists in this business who have a finite bag o' tricks. After five or 15 years in comics, they've invented everything they're going to invent, and from there on, we get variations on the same figures, the same compositions, the same angles. Often, this is because they keep being assigned variations on the same scripts about the same characters.

And then there are artists like Glanzman, whose '90s work is recognizable, sort of, as the same guy who drew Shock Gibson in the '40s, Robin Hood in the '50s, Kona and Hercules in the '60s, U.S.S. Stevens in the '70s, and Haunted Tank in the '80s. Still, he's doing things he never did before, including the application of a new and arresting intensity of detail.

Most artists start out putting in every teensy line and simplify as they get older. The theory is that learning what to leave out is more difficult than putting

everything in — and that's absolutely true.

Oh, on occasion, it's a rationale and/or justification for goofing off and knocking a page out quickly — but most of the time, it's valid. Wally Wood used to say that all the pages he did for E.C. were better 30 to 60 minutes before he finished each one. "I'd put in the right amount of linework to make the drawing read properly," he'd say. "Then I went on adding a lot of clutter."

Simplicity is also a mark of confidence in the basic drawing. I once saw a veteran critiquing the work of a novice who seemed to think that the more ink, the better the drawing. The kid had noodled and tickled and modeled and cross-hatched and filled every square inch of his drawing space with little lines — and then he'd put a Zip-a-Tone pattern over the whole thing.

The Old Pro looked at the samples, pointed to a super-hero figure, and said, "You know, you wouldn't have to put in all that camouflage, if you learned how to draw."

Glanzman's work has never been too simple, but there were stories with notably more white space on the pages. Even then, I suspect, he was giving Charlton a lot more art than it should have gotten for its lousy rates.

In the last few years, though, it looks

as though he's making an interesting trip back in the other direction. Having learned what to leave out, he's now seeing how much he can put back without losing the essence of the drawing.

I have no idea what he's working on these days. Unfortunately, not all editors are wise enough to recognize good art when they see it. They hire young artists, not because they're good (some are, some aren't), but because they're young. There is a belief by some in our field that the work of young artists will naturally sell better than comics drawn by veterans.

It's that kind of thinking that has many once-proud comics now selling in the low five figures. One of the things that separates your good editors from your bad ones is that the good ones know what's good. They look at the work and not at the hair color of its maker — which means they hire guys like Sam Glanzman.

Great to see Russ again. Great to see Ramona and Irwin and Chuck. Great to see John Romita, who promised to sit for a one-on-one interrogation at some future con. Even great to see Irv again; I liked his work, even if he didn't.

Sunday, Aug. 15 — In 75 minutes, we barely scratched the surface of the incredible career of Irwin Hasen. We start-

ed with his long-running newspaper strip *Dondi* and never even got around to his years at DC drawing Green Lantern, Wildcat, and others.

One of the highlights of the con for me was spending time with Irwin, who is (a) a terrific artist, (b) one of the most interesting and articulate people I've met in comics, and (c) one of the wittiest. I'm 6'3", he's 5'2", and I still felt like I was in the presence of a giant.

I enjoyed our talk so much that I'm going to share it with you. The tape's being transcribed right now, and you oughta see it here in five or six weeks.

That's about it for this year's Comic-Con International. Well, there was more, but I don't think a report on a four-day convention should take more than four days to read.

Next week, however, I have a postscript on the con — a discussion of the company that was on everyone's lips throughout those four days. Wandering the hall, I heard it mentioned more often than DC, Marvel, Dark Horse, and Image combined. See if you can guess what it was, then meet me back here in seven days to see if you're right.

Mark Evanier gets his mail at PMB 303, 363 S. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036-3124, and on the 'net at me@evanier.com.



[Editor's Note: Items for this feature, which lists appearances in comics stores and lecture halls — not conventions — of writers, artists, and editors should be submitted as far in advance as possible. We need your information at least two weeks in advance of the signing to have a sporting chance of getting it in.]

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October 1

Ellen Forney (creator of *Monkey Food: The Complete "I Was Seven in '75" Collection*) at Tower Books, 383 Lafayette St., New York, New York, beginning at 7 p.m.

Steve Darnall (writer of *Empty Love Stories*), **Hillary Barta** (artist), **Gary Gianni** (creator of *Monster Men*), and other creators at Chicago Comics, 3244 N. Clark St., Chicago, Illinois from 6 to

8 p.m.

October 14

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Barnes & Noble, 380 Walt Whitman Rd., Huntington Station, Long Island, New York, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

October 16

Ted Raimi (*Xena's "Joxer"*) at Metro Entertainment, 6 W. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California 93101, beginning at 1 p.m.

October 21

Ellen Forney (creator of *Monkey Food: The Complete "I Was Seven in '75" Collection*) at Bailey/Coy Books, 414 Broadway East, Seattle, Washington, beginning at 7 p.m.

October 25

Ellen Forney (creator of *Monkey Food: The Complete "I Was Seven in '75" Collection*) at Powell's Books on Hawthorne, 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

October 27

Ellen Forney (creator of *Monkey Food: The Complete "I Was Seven in '75" Collection*) at Barnes & Noble, 2352 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, California, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Barnes & Noble, Boston University, 660 Beacon St., Boston, Massachusetts beginning at 7 p.m.

October 29

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Barnes & Noble, 495 South Rd. (Rt. 9), Poughkeepsie,

New York beginning at 7 p.m.

November 6

Ellen Forney (creator of *Monkey Food: The Complete "I Was Seven in '75" Collection*) at Soap Plant/Wack/La Luz de Jesus Gallery, 4633 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, California, beginning at 7 p.m.

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Merritt Bookstore, 7496 S. Broadway, Red Hook, New York from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

November 9

Ellen Forney (creator of *Monkey Food: The Complete "I Was Seven in '75" Collection*) at Borders Books, 1072 Camino Del Rio North, San Diego, California, beginning at 7 p.m.

November 13

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Tower Books, 425 South St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania beginning at 7 p.m.

Claudia Christian (*Babylon 5*) at Metro Entertainment, 6 W. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California 93101, beginning at 1 p.m. Call (805) 963-2168 for details.

November 19

Barry Windsor-Smith (*Barry Windsor-Smith: Opus Vol. 1*) at Tower Books, 383 Lafayette St., New York, New York beginning at 7 p.m.

November 20

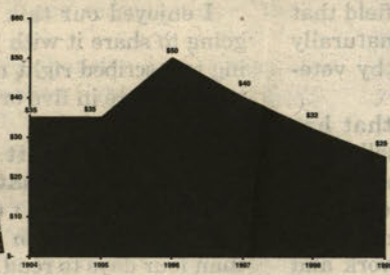
Neil Gaiman and **Yoshitaka Amano** (*Sandman: The Dream Hunters*) at DreamHaven Books & Comics, 912 W. Lake St., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408. Call (612) 823-6161 for times.

COMICS
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REPORT

Sept. 19, 1999 • Sept. 25, 1999

Compiled by BRENT FRANKENHOFF
CBG Price Guide Editor

Kamandi commands



While not necessarily commanding record prices, interest in a number of '70s titles from both Marvel and DC, especially first issues, has been increasing over the past few years, as collectors who remember reading an issue or two of a given series in earlier years reach the point at which they can go back and complete a run of a fondly remembered title.

Among those series that collectors have sought out are several by Jack Kirby, including *Kamandi*, *the Last Boy on Earth*, a post-apocalyptic series with *Planet of the Apes* overtones. ComicBase's Pete Bickford described *Kamandi* #1 as "easily one of the best Kirby adventure titles and a Bronze Age favorite," with reports of recent sales in the \$25 to \$30 range in Near-Mint.

As more collectors reach the age at which they want to recapture their youth, expect prices to increase, albeit slightly in some cases, on more titles from this era.



THE CAT #1

Marvel

Nov 72 • Cover 20¢

Not to be confused with Hellcat of The Defenders, this heroine made her debut the same month as

Night Nurse and was later transformed into Tigra of The West Coast Avengers.

Current NM price: \$20

Retail beat

• John Cook of DNA South in Lake Jackson, Texas, reported selling four copies of *Sailor Moon* #1 in Near-Mint for \$27 each. Additionally, he reported sales increasing on later back issues of the series and improved interest in *Dragonball Z* #1.

• James Simonds of Things From Another World in Beaverton, Ore., reported selling *Danger Girl* #1 for \$14.



CONAN THE BARBARIAN #1

Marvel

Oct 70 • Cover 15¢

It's not a particularly hot title but it's one of the best-

written and longest-running fantasy-adventure series. Roy Thomas and Barry Windsor-Smith adapted several of Robert E. Howard's pulp adventures in the early issues.

Current NM price: \$225



HERO FOR HIRE #1

Marvel

Jun 72 • Cover 20¢

Before he became Power Man, Luke Cage was just another con-

vict who received steel-hard skin and enhanced strength in a prison experiment. He put his newfound powers to use as a private investigator and reluctant righter of wrongs and later he teamed with martial artist Iron Fist. In the 1990s, Milestone's *Icon* series featured a parody version of the character called Buck Wild.

Current NM price: \$35



ANALYZING ATLAS

Atlas, born in 1975, simultaneously attempted to launch comics in virtually every genre, from super-heroes to teen ro-

manace. While most Atlas titles, including *Ironjaw* (shown here) sell for 25¢ to \$1, two series are selling better. *Vicki*, Atlas' attempt to win away Archie readers, has been reported selling at \$22 due to a combination of bad distribution and high curiosity value, while *Thrilling Adventure Stories* #1 has been seen at \$12 and #2 at \$20 in Chicago.



pricing research

is provided by CBG and COMICBASE. Silver Age to present information will be available in the Comic Book Checklist and Price Guide Year 2000 Edition. Order at (800) 258-0929 or online at www.comicsbuyersguide.com.

COMICLINK
COMMENTS

BY JOSHUA NATHANSON



UNDERWORLD CRIME #7

Fawcett

Cover 10¢

One of the main reasons for the sale price is the cover of this issue.

This is a very high-demand item. The strong positive correlation between graphic, shocking covers like this one and prices realized continues.

Sold in VG- for: \$200



AMAZING ADVENTURES #6

Ziff-Davis

Cover 10¢

Incredible rarity in this condition and a very desirable cover are

two of the reasons for the price realized. This was also a Bethlehem pedigree copy, and the Bethlehem collection has obtained pedigree status among collectors and retailers alike.

NM pedigrees sell for multiples of the established market price, and this was no exception. This particular copy is likely one of the best in existence.

Sold in NM for: \$520

Joshua Nathanson is CEO of ComicLink (www.comiclink.com), an online marketplace where a wide selection of condition-verified, investment-quality comic books and related memorabilia are bought and sold.



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- Unless delayed delivery is specified in the ad, the buyer may request an immediate refund if delivery is not made within 30 days after seller accepts payment. When delayed delivery is specified in the ad, but the stated period passes without delivery, the buyer may request an immediate refund. This policy takes precedence over any terms or conditions which may appear in any advertisement. When, in the opinion of the publisher, delayed delivery is being used to avoid fulfilling an order for available merchandise on which the market value has risen, the publisher reserves the right to alter the amount of refund due and enforces it immediate remittance to the buyer.
- Advertisers who are in violation of these or any other Krause Publication advertising policies may be subject to penalties included, but not limited to, suspension or revocation of advertising privileges, at the sole discretion of the publisher.
- The publisher's staff reserves the right to - without prior notice - suspend application of these policies, to amend any policy, or to create any new policy which in its sole opinion will facilitate fair play in a specific transaction or among the hobby in general.

SEND ADS AND PAYMENT TO: COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

Advertising
700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS

A completed reference form must be in our confidential files before any buy, sell or trade ad can be placed. See below. Minors are required to furnish a statement of responsibility from their parents or guardian before their advertising can be accepted. Payment must accompany an advertisement and must be in the form of a personal check drawn on U.S. Canadian or Mexican bank; money orders; international money orders; cashier's checks; or with your VISA, MasterCard, American Express or NOVUS credit card. Send your credit card number, expiration date, and the name on the card, along with permission to charge the card for your ad, with your advertising copy.

REFERENCE FORM

COMPANY NAME _____		
STREET ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
PHONE NO. _____		
SOCIAL SECURITY # _____		
TYPE OF BUSINESS _____		
☐ CORPORATION		
☐ CO PARTNERSHIP		
☐ LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		
NO. OF YEARS ESTABLISHED _____		
☐ INDIVIDUAL PROPRIETOR		
PRINCIPAL OWNERS - STOCKHOLDERS - PARTNERS - OFFICERS OF COMPANY		
NAME _____		
MAILING ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
TITLE _____		
TRADE REFERENCES		
NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____		
BANK REFERENCE		
BANK NAME _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____		
BANKING OFFICIAL _____		
I (we) hereby authorize Krause Publications and/or its credit agent to investigate the references herein or statements or other data obtained from me or any other person pertaining to my credit and financial responsibility. I understand that it is Krause Publications' policy to require cash in advance for all advertising until credit has been established or approved.		
Further, I (we), the undersigned, will be held personally responsible and promise to pay promptly within 15 days of the billing date for all advertising debts incurred by the above named business and owing to Krause Publications.		
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) OF APPLICANT(S) _____		



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FAX#(715) 445-4087
TELEX#55-6461
(Krause Publ.)
http://www.krause.com

Advertising Deadlines

AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE	AD DEADLINE	NO.	ISSUE
Tues. Sept. 28, 1999	1353	Oct. 22, 1999	Tues. Oct. 19, 1999	1356	Nov. 12, 1999
Tues. Oct. 5, 1999	1354	Oct. 29, 1999	Tues. Oct. 26, 1999	1357	Nov. 19, 1999
Tues. Oct. 12, 1999	1355	Nov. 5, 1999	Tues. Nov. 2, 1999	1358	Nov. 26, 1999

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts.)

AD SIZE	ISSUE	1	6	13	26	52
A. Eighth Page (4-1/8" x 2-5/8")	\$103	\$101	\$99	\$95	\$87	
B. Quarter Page Vertical (4-1/8" x 5-3/8")	\$195	\$192	\$188	\$180	\$164	
Quarter Page Horizontal (10" x 2-5/8")	\$195	\$192	\$188	\$180	\$164	
C. Half Page Vertical (4-7/8" x 11") or	\$303	\$297	\$291	\$279	\$255	
Half Page Horizontal (10" x 5-3/8")	\$303	\$297	\$291	\$279	\$255	
D. Full Page (10" x 11")	\$546	\$536	\$525	\$503	\$459	

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts.)

AD SIZE	ISSUE	1	6	13	26	52
1. One Inch (2-1/4" x 1")	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$18.00	
2. Two Inches (2-1/4" x 2")	\$31.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$28.00	\$26.00	
3. Three Inches (2-1/4" x 3")	\$39.00	\$38.00	\$37.00	\$36.00	\$33.00	

CLASSIFIED WORD ADS:

Our "Classified" ads are heavily read. Base rates are 40¢ per word with discounts for multiple issues. Please print and punctuate - we are not responsible for error due to long-hand and illegible copy. For more information see classified ad form in the classified section. Credit card customers can place word ads TOLL FREE - Call 1-800-942-0673. (This is for classified word ads only.)

UNIT ADVERTISING:

A. COLLECTORS SHOWCASE

Collectors Showcase Units are 3-1/4" wide x 1-5/8" high and can be bought in multiples. All typesetting is done by Krause Publications and is included in the price.

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$31.00	\$30.00	\$29.00	\$28.00	\$26.00

B. COMICS TRADER ADS

"No-frills" advertising with a price to match. Design your own ad - just type your ad clearly on an 8-1/2" w x 8-1/2" h sheet of paper. We will reduce your Trader ad to fit a 1/9 page space (3-1/4" w x 3-1/4" h). Super Traders should be typed on an 8-1/2" w x 8-1/2" h sheet of paper which will be reduced to fit a 5" x 5" space.

Regular Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 6 Trader spaces per page per advertiser.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$43.00	\$42.00	\$41.00	\$40.00	\$36.00

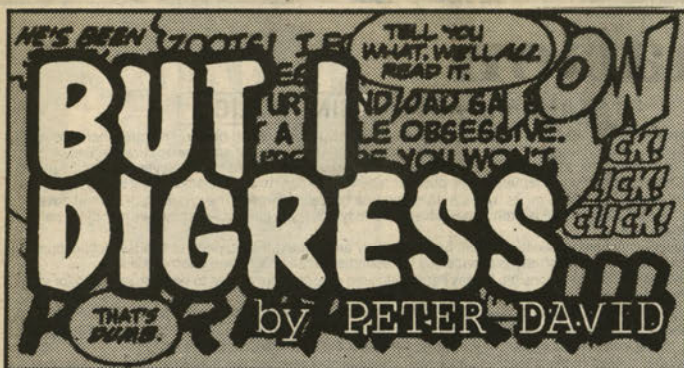
Super Trader

(Cost per ad per issue: ads must run consecutively to earn contract discounts. Limit 2 Super Trader spaces per page per advertiser.)

1 Issue	6 Issues	13 Issues	26 Issues	52 Issues
\$114.00	\$112.00	\$110.00	\$105.00	\$96.00

C. RETAILER DIRECTORY \$3.50 per issue

Leads fans to your cash register! List your store name, address, phone number and 15 words of description. Sold in 26 and 52 week increments. It's targeted more to the comics buff than the yellow pages - and it's more cost effective. If you sell COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE in your store, we will publish your listing in bold face type at no extra charge.



As I sit here in the shelter constructed for refugees, huddling to avoid the wrath of Hurricane Floyd, I wonder how I will find the strength to go on. Everything that we own, gone. Everything we ...

JUGGLING Multiple Titles

Brent Frankenhoff
CBG Associate Editor

As the Halloween season approaches, Bongo has trotted out its fifth edition of *Bart Simpson's Treehouse of Horror*. As in past years, several creators have contributed horror stories featuring Springfield's favorite family.

All three stories are enjoyable, and the back cover pin-up got a grin. At \$3.50, this one-shot would have been more of a treat with another story.



This year's first offering, "Dark Lisa," written by Jill Thompson with art by Oscar González Loyo and Steve Steere Jr., starts off with what appears to be a *Carrie* parody but later turns to a different parody theme.

Sergio Aragonés' "X'ta-palatakettle's Day" invokes memories of his *Dark Horse* one-shot showing Mexican Halloween rituals. Aragonés strays a bit from the Simpsons' model sheets, but the style is still close.

Doug TenNapel, however, strays the farthest from the Bongo mold with his "Apu on Rigel 7," a very funny story with Kang and Kodos which rounds out the issue. While the characters are still recognizable, backgrounds are dark and gloomy.

Nah, I'm kidding. We were lucky. By the time the hurricane got to our neck of the woods, it barely qualified as a squall. We had some wind, some rain, and that was about it. The only real impact the storm had on us was that it botched our flight to Madison, Wis.

Last year, we had one of the best times we ever had a convention, when we attended the Mad Media convention in the cheesiest state in the country. I was literally dragged there by Harlan Ellison, who was one of the guests along with Neil Gaiman (about whom I should really do a column; he was, after all, a "topic," and he's done me enough good turns that I owe it to him; OK, next week, I'll talk about Neil). Harlan said, "I'll be there, Neil'll be there, it'll be great! We'll hang together!" As it turned out, our schedule was so busy that we hardly had any time together at all. But it was a pleasant, albeit small, convention. They invited me back for this year and offered to fly out not only me, but Gwen, Ariel, and Kathleen. That's pretty much a guaranteed way to get me to go to a con: offer to bring my family. They were also supposed to have Warwick Davis ("Willow") at this year's con, but he canceled at the last moment. We decided to go anyway, though.

Originally, they were going to book us on a flight Friday morning, but I was reluctant to have the girls miss school. So, instead, they got us seats on a flight scheduled to leave LaGuardia at 6:45 in the evening. I was actually patting myself on the back over that one, especially considering that the hurricane had only just passed out of our area early that morning, so I was certain that the morning flight would be delayed. By that evening, though, naturally, everything would be back on track.

We arrived at the airport to

Peter's plane plans

discover that the plane was running three hours late. Three. Hours. Late. "It's the weather," they explained to us, stating that left-over high winds had made it impossible for planes to take off or land.

"Just out of curiosity," I asked, "when did the 11:30 flight take off?"

"Actually, that one left on time," said the ticket seller.

While Kathleen was busy prying away the knife I was endeavoring to slit my wrists with, the ticket guy gave us even more good news. Until that moment, I was telling myself that the one good thing to come out of this mess was that we didn't have to worry about missing our connecting flight from Milwaukee to Madison; although we had a layover, we didn't have to change planes. Except, as it turned out, since we were getting into Milwaukee so late, the airport in Madison was closed. Oh, yes. That's definitely what I want to see in a state's capital city: an airport that rolls up the runway at 10 p.m. But, hey, no problem! They were planning to stick us on a bus that would take a mere (we were told) two and a half hours to get to Madison.

Fortunately enough, I managed to get in touch with the nice folks at Mad Media, and they said they would come pick us up at the Milwaukee airport, bless their hearts.

All flight delay problems aside, the airline itself — Midwest Express — has a hell of a lot going for it. Its philosophy is that the entirety of the airplane is first class, and it does everything it can to live up to that. The seats are wide and cushy; the food that it serves is unquestionably first-class level. I was, I have to say, very impressed.

However ...

I felt bad for this woman.

She was seated one row ahead of us and on the left. She had two seats. She had two small children. Do the math.

One of the kids couldn't have been more than 2. The other had to be about 1. They were both boys. And they cried. The. Whole. Way.

Not simultaneously, mind you. They tag-teamed. When the 1-year-old would get worn out, the 2-year-old would step in to fill the gap. Once the 2-year-old became

exhausted, the 1-year-old picked up the slack. Mom kept a stiff upper lip, but it was really very sad. There was that little kid, squirming around on her lap, clearly uncomfortable, nowhere to sit.

This is something that I simply do not understand. I mean, there's lots of stuff about air travel that I don't understand. For example, I still don't get how a pilot can fly a plane coast-to-coast at hundreds of miles per hour and find his way — and yet, once he's on the ground and going at two miles an hour, he needs a guy with little red cones pointing and shouting, "*The terminal's over there!*" in order to complete the trip.

Anyway, here's another thing I don't understand. You can be in an automobile going five miles an hour, and, if you don't have your infant buckled in a heavy-duty car seat, you're breaking the law.

But climb into an airplane that's going to be going at hundreds of miles an hour, and you can clutch your child to your bosom with impunity. What the hell is up with that? One serious dose of windshear, one unexpected and abrupt tilt of the plane, and this kid suddenly becomes a human projectile. Of course, if there's a *real* emergency, you shouldn't have to worry about the child's fate, because when the oxygen masks come down, there ain't gonna be one for him! Wheeee! What fun!

Then, of course, there's all the embarrassment that mothers have to deal with when their children start screeching and bleating to the annoyance of other passengers. Understand, it doesn't bother me personally. I've had three children. If someone's kid starts howling, all I do is sit there calmly, smugly, thinking, "Glad it's not mine." I've even sat next to children who spit up on me and just shrugged it off. But what about all the disapproving glares that moms and dads have to put up with from passengers who are far less understanding than I?

It's all so unnecessary to subject parents to the humiliation and children to the hazards when there are perfectly good overhead baggage compartments going unused.

Think about it: Aren't they the

perfect size? It would be so easy. Just drill air holes in the doors of the compartments, add belts or even simple elastic mesh to stop the kids from sliding around, and you've got the perfect means of transporting any infant thousands of miles. To say nothing of the fact that those compartments look pretty heavy-duty to me in terms of soundproofing. Let the kid scream his lungs out up there. No one's going to hear him.

It would work for older kids, as well. The 3- and 4-year-olds love to hide in small, enclosed places. Inside closets, under beds, inside refrigerator cartons. They'll love it! And, if they don't love it, then — as noted — no one will hear them complaining about it.

Now, sure, there may be some of you who consider the entire notion cruel. But how much *more* cruel is it to risk a child's life by having him traveling in unsafe conditions? And, if the kid does get a little scared or spooked by being enclosed in a dark place for hours on end, well, heck. Years from now they won't even remember it. How much stuff do *you* remember from *your* infancy or from when you were 3? Sure, sure, it might instill a fear of small, enclosed places. So they won't grow up to become astronauts or spelunkers. Big deal. At least they'll be alive, thanks to my infinitely compassionate plan. The FAA and all major airlines are more than welcome to utilize my (admittedly ground-breaking) suggestion.

Oh, yes. **The convention itself was quite nice, too.** People were still talking about the whole "guava paste is people" gag from last year. I'm told this may be the last Mad Media, and I certainly hope that's not the case. I think it might have a shot at growing into something major, provided it gets the opportunity.

On the flight home, a child was whimpering nearby. I caught his eye, then pointed at the overhead compartment, and nodded significantly. He immediately quieted down. His mother saw, however, and tried to have me arrested.

True visionaries are always misunderstood.

Peter David, writer of stuff, can be written to at To Be Continued Inc., P.O. Box 239, Bayport, NY 11705.

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MARVEL HISTORY FIRST APPEARANCES FIGURES

A Previews Exclusive! Comic Stores Only! Discover the next generation of super-heroes with these "Marvel History" action figures, all taken from Marvel's MC2 imprint! Choose from: *American Dream*, *Spider-Girl*, *Stinger*, and *Wild Thing* — and discover for yourself the true meaning of "Girl Power!" Each figure stands ready at 5" tall, is highly detailed, includes various accessories, serious articulation, and features all-new MC2 first Appearance-themed blister card packaging!

PREVIEWS
Exclusive



9⁹⁹
Ea.

OCT992437H

PREVIEWS EXCLUSIVES

PREVIEWS
Exclusive



9⁹⁹

OCT992458H

PLAYBOY PLAYMATE CELEBRITY SERIES: PAM ANDERSON CAR

A Previews Exclusive! This is the first of a new series of Playboy Celebrity Cars! Each superior-quality 1:64 scale stock car replica features a die-cast metal body and chassis, opening hood, detailed engine, white-lettered rubber tires, and meticulous graphics adorning the car's body — including a full-color image of a celebrity centerfold on the car's hood! This first edition features the quite fabulous Pamela Anderson! This car also comes packaged with a mini "centerfold" and profile of the curvaceous TV cutie. Blister card packaging.

Specialty Market
Exclusive

SPECIALTY MARKET EXCLUSIVES

OVER RACE GUILLOTINNA FIGURE

Imported from Japan! Designed by Yasushi Nirasawa and sculpted by Shimitsu Usui. Yasushi Nirasawa's character from *Guillotinna* still can't cool down her madness even after she fished up her enemy Danken! Standing 20cm tall, she comes with two different kinds of weapons for both hands and diorama base. Blister card packaging.

18⁹⁵
Ea.

OCT992512H



ALIEN DELUXE VINYL FIGURE

So realistic, you'll think you're in the movie! This 1:5 scale figure of the original Alien comes fully-painted and fully-assembled, complete with his see-through skull. This is a re-cast of Tsukuda's Alien figure offered during the '80s, but with superior paint detailing. Get him, before he gets you! Window box packaging.

Specialty Market
Exclusive

70⁰⁰

OCT992497H



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Select

LADY DEATH: DARK MILLENNIUM GOLD-CAST RESIN STATUES

A Diamond Select Offering! Lady Death, the ravishing Goddess of the netherworld, is immortalized for all eternity with this breathtaking landmark cold-cast resin statue, sculpted by Sam Greenwell! Dangerous, yet sensual, Lady Death stands a majestic 18" of precise detail. Personally overseen by her creator, Brian Pulido, Lady Death stands atop a skull-laced cliff base. Brought to you by Brian Pulido's Eternal Toys and manufactured by Diamond Select. The statue comes packaged in a custom box with a Certificate of Authenticity, and is limited to 5,000 pieces. Also available is a special "Artist's Proof" statue, mounted on a black onyx base with a pewter nameplate, pewter sword, and special gold treatment on Lady Death's outfit. This edition is limited to only 300 pieces and comes signed by Brian Pulido and Sam Greenwell. Both are fully painted and ready to display. Blister card packaging.

175⁰⁰/300⁰⁰

OCT992539-40I



PREVIEWS
Shared
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PREVIEWS SHARED EXCLUSIVES

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA 12-INCH AQUAMAN FIGURES

A Previews Shared Exclusive with KB Toys! This all-new 12" tall figure brings DC's King of the Seas to life, complete with molded beard and long hair, and hook! This figure is 100% new, with no "farmed" pieces! An amazing addition to your 12" JLA figure collection! Window box packaging.

29⁹⁹

OCT992436H



LOOK FOR THESE EXCLUSIVE ITEMS ALSO IN THIS ISSUE!

More Previews Exclusives!

- Avengelyne/Pandora Previews Exclusive Cover
- Cuda #0 Previews Exclusive Prism Foil Cover
- Galactica: New Millennium #4—Battlestar Pegasus Deluxe Ed.
- Pop Parody Comics #1
- Pop Parody Comics: Polymon—World Domination
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- Xena Magazine Featuring Hercules #4 Exclusive Variant Cover
- Zen #3

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- Star Trek: Borg Queen 6" Cold-Cast Diorama (o/a)
- Star Trek: Locutus of Borg 6" Cold-Cast Diorama (o/a)

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